MEMOIR OF THE LIFE

OF

ELIZABETH FRY.

Engraved by J. J. Hinchliff

From a Portrait by Mrs Charles Pearson.

with her kind permission

My attached and
obliged friend
Elizth Fry

MEMOIR OF THE LIFE

OF

ELIZABETH FRY,

WITH

EXTRACTS FROM HER JOURNAL AND LETTERS.

EDITED BY TWO OF HER DAUGHTERS.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

Second Edition.

REVISED AND ENLARGED.

LONDON:
JOHN HATCHARD AND SON, 187, PICCADILLY;
CHARLES GILPIN, 5, BISHOPSGATE STREET WITHOUT.
1848.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY G. J. PALMER, SAVOY STREET, STRAND.

HV
2978
F94A4
v.1

INTRODUCTION.

"BLESSED are the dead which die in the Lord, yea saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labours and their works do follow them." Very cheering is it to the pilgrim on his weary path, to mark the history of those who have gone before, and to trace the power by which they have been enabled

> To "labour up the hill of heavenly truth"
> And "fill their odorous lamps with deeds of light."

He may draw from it increased courage in endurance and fresh motives for exertion, for the path is not always easy, nor the way plain. When a Christian traveller therefore is taken from the earth, the question arises whether any thing in his history would encourage others, or exalt the cause of righteousness and truth. Should the labours of the departed have assumed a peculiar aspect, or have been in any respect uncommon; the importance of this enquiry will be only enhanced. The motives of conduct, the secret springs of action must then be known, before the character can be fairly contemplated, or a just estimate formed of the individual.

Elizabeth Fry was one who formed the bright exception, not the rule, in the history of woman. Her numerous friends and

572563
HISTORY

associates desire to know her better, and to possess a more detailed account of her life. And how can the truth be so well told, as by her own journal, her letters, and those incidents in her life which illustrate her character.

Elizabeth Fry's family feel that their mother's memory belongs to others as well as to themselves—nor dare they withhold this record from the many, who have observed her proceedings with interest, and have considered but scarcely comprehended her career.

Two of her daughters have undertaken the office of preparing her papers for publication ; and, with the sanction of their father, selecting to the best of their judgment, such parts as may elucidate the subject, and interest the general reader. They are aware of the disadvantages under which they labour, from such an office being altogether new to them, but if the memory of their mother should not suffer through their means, they shall be well content to endure their own feelings of short coming. They owe deep thanks to many, who have lent them assistance ; returned letters, furnished materials, and helped in arranging them. But there is one point they anxiously wish to impress upon those who may peruse this Memoir ; that Elizabeth Fry never could have accomplished her works and labours of love, had not faithful and zealous associates been raised up to her help. Their unwearied energy, their skill, and their important assistance will be continually perceptible in the following pages. Many of these have ceased their labours upon earth ; many are advancing into the evening of life. To mention them as they deserve, and to raise a memorial to them also, though from the nature of the case impossible, would be to the writers most gratifying. There is another subject, connected with the life of Elizabeth Fry, on which her daughters would especially ask the forbearance of the public. It is the very difficult one of representing their mother as she was, and can only truly be represented "a Minister of the Society of Friends." This peculiarity was the strongly-marked feature in her life. Here they anticipate, that many will not understand her course; whilst to that section of the church of Christ to which she belonged, it will probably be the most interesting portion of the whole. It is not their intention, as Editors, to enter into any discussion on the subject of the ministry of women; but, deeply impressed with the unlimited nature of the operations of the Holy Spirit, they dare not doubt, but that under His influences, their mother went forward in the path marked out before her—and that she was as a fine and well-tempered instrument in the hand of the Great Head of the Church, to effect certain purposes of His will, in which her connexion with the Society of Friends, and adoption of their views, became an important auxiliary. But far beyond any sectarian, or peculiar tenets, would they earnestly endeavour to bring before the reader the development of her Christian character, the expansiveness of her charity, and the unity she felt with all those whom she believed to be followers of the Lord Jesus Christ; desiring, that though dead she may yet speak, and that others may be stimulated by her example to follow her, as she desired and endeavoured to follow Christ.

The extracts from her Journal and Correspondence display the nature of her religious mind—her absolute dependence upon the Highest influences for guidance and direction; her unremitting study of the written word, and the spirit of prayer in which she carried on all her domestic duties and her objects of benevolence. To adorn the doctrine of God her Saviour, to obey his precepts, and in every thing to give Him alone the glory, was unceasingly before her mind; emphatically did she express this during her last illness, when she thus spoke to one of her children:—"I can say one thing—since my heart was touched, at the age of seventeen, I believe, I never have awakened from sleep, in sickness or in health, by day or by night, without my first waking thought being, how best I might serve my Lord."

Let no one therefore attribute too much of the remarkable success that attended her undertakings, to her natural gifts, to her winning manner, her harmonious voice, her gentle firmness of purpose, or quickness of perception ; but rather to the fact—that she was called by God to His own service, and that He saw meet eminently to fit her for it, and to work in her both to will and to do of His good pleasure.

KATHARINE FRY.
RACHEL ELIZABETH CRESSWELL.

Plashet, April, 1847.

INTRODUCTION

TO THE SECOND EDITION.

When the first Edition of this Memoir was presented to the Public, it was a question how far it would be approved by that stern, and in the end, unerring judge, and whether the character and career of Elizabeth Fry would be generally understood and appreciated.

Very few months have elapsed since the work was completed, a large edition has been exhausted, and no small number of critics and reviewers have come forward to express their opinions, to sketch the picture with their own pencils, and colour it as their taste or preconceived opinions dictated. The Editors would acknowledge that they have been kindly, most kindly treated; nor have they been unmindful of the counsel given in preparing the present Edition.

But it is not with themselves that they have here to do; as has been beautifully said for them, "The fame of such a mother, is not only an inheritance but a trust." It is of her that they would speak;—of her natural character—the faith she possessed,—and the times she lived in. To attempt this was not originally their intention, but the varieties of opinion that have been broached induce them to alter this decision, and to add their own testimony to those already given.

Her natural Character.—This was a combination of great decision, even resoluteness of purpose, exquisite tenderness and power of loving, and timidity to an extent scarcely conceivable by those unacquainted with her in the closest relations of life. Had qualities so opposite been abandoned to the guidance of human reason, traits of devoted affection and determination in effecting the desired end, might have been discernible; but counteracted or misdirected by the extreme of fearfulness, they must have failed in effecting any uniform good. The possessor would probably have been a victim to unrest and unsatisfied desires,—those dependent upon her exposed to caprice and uncertainty. The amalgamating power of religion combined the opposing elements; it directed her decision in her long protracted efforts for the good of others; it controlled and sanctified her natural affections; it exalted her powers of loving, and raised them to that which could satisfy the desires of her heart. It became her *delight* to do the will of her Heavenly Father; her fearfulness blended with it, and gave her courage in all things according to the faith that was in her, to "obey God rather than man."

She possessed a quality eminently calculated to gladden and adorn life, a taste for the beautiful in nature and art, the former especially,—but all was offered on the altar of her heart to retain and indulge only in accordance with the service of her great Master.

There was another feature in her character which greatly assisted her in her dealings with her fellow men,—her delicate tact and rapid perception. It was by a sort of intuition she arrived at the knowledge of the opinions and feelings of others. This also became a means of good, guiding her in her intercourse with the various persons of all ranks and conditions, with whom she held communication. But it was not alone by religious truth in the aggregate that she was so wonderfully benefited,—the peculiar form in which religion came to her was precisely that which appears to have been the best calculated to her temperament, disposition, and circumstances. Had the "water of life" been brought to her through any other channel; had a Scott, a Newton, or a Wesley, been the appointed messenger to say to her, 'Believe and live,' very different would have been the career of Elizabeth Fry. How, any other dispensation would have affected her can only be matter of speculation. One thing is however obvious, that she as an individual, and the peculiar career allotted to her, serve as no common illustration of the adaptation of the guiding providences of God to the circumstances and the required duties of man; for without the habits, the garb, the address, and the protection of the Society of Friends, and above all, without the fullest reception of the doctrine of the unlimited nature of the operations of the Holy Spirit, it would have been impracticable for her to accomplish the work allotted her to do.

The Faith she possessed.—Gradually and through obscurity she made her way from vague and indistinct opinions to the fullest reception of the great doctrine of the Atonement. She in no manner mystified or confused it with the offices of the Third Person of the Godhead, but simply and absolutely believed in Jesus Christ as her Redeemer, and looked to His Sacrifice alone for salvation. She believed in the Holy Spirit as one with the Father and the Son, and as being the Enlightener, Sanctifier, and Guide of the Elect people of God; by which word (Elect) she understood those without distinction of sect or party, who having received the Lord Christ into their hearts, are in the language of Scripture, renewed or born again.

She believed that salvation is fully and freely offered to all mankind. The letter U is continually to be found in her Bible against those texts which she considered indicative of the universality of Divine Grace.* Here she planted her foot, here with matured judgment, and advanced experience, she took her stand, and with all who united with her in these essentials of religion, whatever their denomination might be, she was capable of close communion. So far the teachings of our Lord and his disciples were in her estimation clear and unquestionable. But as if to adapt religion to all countries and conditions of men, no minute directions are left for the arrangement of Church Discipline, although that there are to be authorities and orders to maintain discipline and enjoin obedience, is continually implied. To suppose that any one form of religion as now established upon earth, contains in itself exclusively, in its doctrine, in its ritual, in its practice, the essence of vital Christianity, is to treat all other institutions only as more or less removed from error,—or approximate to truth as they approach to, or recede from, the imagined standard of perfection.

Elizabeth Fry, whilst she urged the need of devotedness of heart and purity of conduct upon all, asked not who was a Lutheran, or Calvinist, or Roman Catholic abroad, a member of the Church of England or a dissenter at home. Fully conscious of the imperfection even in holy things to which all church administration is liable, passing as it does through a human medium, and affected by the feelings and opinions of men, she would not unfrequently compare it to water pure in itself, tainted by the channel through which it flows. But this arose not from indifference to her own religious convictions, it was not occasioned by indifference to the convictions of others; although delivered from undue dependence upon the secondary points of religion, she firmly adhered to her own principles, and to the form of doctrine which she considered to be right.

---

* The following texts on this subject were written out by herself, and carried with her in one of her long journeys :

For as in Adam *all* die, even so in Christ shall *all* be made alive. 1 Cor. xv. 22.

Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon *all* men to condemnation ; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon *all* men unto justification. Rom. v. 18.

God our Saviour. Who will have *all* men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus ; who gave himself a ransom *for all*, to be testified of in due time. 1 Tim. ii. 3, 4, 5, 6.

We trust in the living God who is the Saviour of *all* men, specially of those that believe. 1 Tim. vi., part of verse 10.

That he by the grace of God should taste death for *every* man. Heb. ii. part of verse 9.

And he is the propitiation for the sins : and not for ours *only*, but for the sins of the *whole* world. 1 John ii. 2.

She believed that there was a distinct path, a path of right for every individual, she did not look upon the choice of a religious profession as a matter left to the devious imaginations of man, but one of solemn responsibility, affecting the stability of his Christian character, and his preparedness for an eternal state of being. Nor did she undervalue the weight of outward circumstances; of birth, education, country, position, or the creed inherited from forefathers, for whilst she had no sympathy with the spirit that would arrogate perfection to itself, she was none the less alive to the evil of undervaluing the privileges of church polity and church fellowship.

The danger is undeniable to which the unprejudiced truth-seeker is exposed, of taking refuge in the conclusion that if no one religious community is absolutely in the right, and consequently of universal adaptation, as a sequence every professing body of Christians must be more or less in error. From the scriptures of truth, and from the analogy to be observed between God's outward and spiritual government of the world, far different results are obtained. The former teach us that whilst secondary points are left for adaptation to country, political institutions, and the varying eras of the world, some system of church government is indispensable for all

Analogy proves, that man, habituated to receiving ideas through the medium of his outward senses, needs the help of such a staff as this to sustain him in the journey of life. Not mistaking the means for the end, that he should rest satisfied in the possession of that which is given as a support only, *along* the road of life, nor on the contrary that he should fling it from him as useless and cumbersome, and attempt unsupported and alone a path so fraught with danger and beset with temptation.

Elizabeth Fry was one of those who desired for herself and others, in the wisdom of humility, to mark the accidents of life by which each individual is surrounded, to note well his position as a citizen of the world that is, whilst he forgets not his calling as an inheritor of the world to come,—ever mindful of the fact, that a God of Grace is also a God of Providence, and that he who would speed well on his way, must be mindful of outward circumstances, whilst he listens with reverential attention to the guiding voice of inward conviction.

The Times she lived in.—Elizabeth Fry entered life at a period, when principles were developing and opinions forming unknown before. The French Revolution, and the writers which preceded it, had filled the social atmosphere with new elements. Produced by the struggle between tyranny and bigotry on the one hand, infidelity and licentiousness on the other, its lessons were written in blood, but as it swept over Europe, to all who were prepared to learn it taught wisdom. Thought, before in fetters, became free—but time and results were requisite to prove the tendency of the theories in vogue, to show that laxity is not liberty, and that honest truth-seeking is compatible with faith and devotedness of heart.

When Elizabeth Gurney came to an age of reflection, this yet remained to be discovered. To dare to doubt was almost synonymous with courage, and to believe in nothing not unfrequently mistaken for truth.

Glorious exceptions there undoubtedly were, and not a few who clung the closer to the religious faith of their fathers, and to the institutions of their country, for the strife and uprooting around them.

Of ministers of religion it was expected, that with the pen as from the pulpit, they should urge their own opinions, and recommend the doctrines and commands of the Bible. The public was accustomed to the name of Hannah More, and of some writers of a similar stamp; but when a young and gifted member of the legislature, endowed with talent, fortune, and most rare attainments in social life, came forward with a sound and simple exposition of Christian life and Christian conduct, its reception proved the degeneracy which had crept into English society.

A book which now represents the opinions of a vast proportion of the educated classes was received at that time by the thoughtful with astonishment, by the worldly-minded with displeasure, and by the careless with contempt. Elizabeth Gurney had tasted the charms and the dangers of unbridled thought, but her conscience once aroused, and her judgment satisfied that these things ought not so to be, she parleyed not with the enemy; not alone taking her stand on the broad basis of Christian truth, she sheltered herself behind the minute observances of the sect to which she belonged.

Had she not been led in a path so narrow when laxity and indifference to secondary things was the prevailing cry around her, the Christian liberality she displayed, when in after years a spirit of intolerance and adherence to party obtained general ascendancy, would have failed in teaching the intended lesson. Alarmed at the carelessness and contempt for holy things observable during the early part of her life, she bore her testimony to the necessity of a close and conscientious observance of the externals of religion; equally fearful of the intolerant spirit which she saw in later years, she endeavoured by example and advice to enforce the principle of Christian love and unity between professors of every denomination who are servants of the same Lord. This posture of passive mental resistance tended unquestionably to the strengthening of her own faith and courage, and to her fitness for the work appointed her to do.

In another point of view, the times she lived in were essentially fitted for the career of Elizabeth Fry.

Before the beginning of the present century almost all good was accomplished by individual and insulated exertion, and, except in cases of endowment, ceased with him who originated the idea.

The last fifty years have brought with them a principle of Christian fellowship and association, unknown before—as a helping element, of indescribable value to the world and the Church.

Had Elizabeth Fry lived but one half century earlier she might have ministered to the necessities of some particular set of prisoners, or superintended one or more prisons in her own vicinity. She might, like Howard, have travelled and taught and brought to light crying evils to the harrowing up of men's souls, but the good gained would have been circumscribed and died with herself.

So far, however, from such being the case, it pleased Almighty Wisdom to raise her up at a moment when England, in an attitude of listening attention, was prepared to learn and profit. When light-bearers had arisen to illumine the prevailing darkness, and to enforce the doctrine, that without abandoning the circumstances of life allotted by Providence, there is a duty incumbent on each individual to perform by his fellow-men; a debt to be discharged proportioned to the talents entrusted to him of wealth, power, intellect, example, and love. It was a whisper at the first, but it was rising louder and louder; it was heard in the saloon, it was acknowledged in the hall of commerce, and might no longer be scouted in the senate-house!

Elizabeth Fry lived to find herself one amongst many. At the outset of her course, minds kindred to her own were comparatively rare, but as she advanced on her pilgrimage wonderful joy was occasioned her by the variety and extent of Christian benevolence which she witnessed around her.

She has passed to her rest! but the spirit by which she was actuated exists and advances. Not alone from the middle ranks of society, nobles and princes, legislators, philosophers, and divines, have given in their adherence to the principle that man is bound to spend and be spent in the service and for the well-being of his fellow-men. Nor is this confined to England, men of many climes and differing in the externals of religion, have enrolled themselves in one vast crusade against misery and sin. Man in his strength, woman in her weakness, may be found there. They serve under one Captain, and whatever their distinguishing badge may be, there is emblazoned but one motto on the banner which floats over them all—"Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good will towards men."

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

1780—1792. Birth—Parentage—Descent—Her Mother, her character —Memoranda by her—Removal to Earlham—Death of Mrs. Gurney —Recollections by Elizabeth Fry of her own early life *Page* 1

CHAPTER II.

1790—1798. Sketch of female society—Circumstances of Elizabeth Gurney and her sisters—Her character and habits—Natural qualities as a young person—Absence of religious knowledge—Established principles requisite to happiness—William Savery comes to Norwich on a religious visit—General view of the origin and opinions of the Quakers—Effects of William Savery's preaching—Description by himself—Account by one of her sisters—Her own journal - - 12

CHAPTER III.

1798—Visit to London, gaiety there—Return to Earlham—Decision between religion and the world—Letter from William Savery—Gradual development of opinion—Journey into Wales and the South of England —Intercourse with Friends—Colebrook Dale—Increasing tendency to Quakerism - - - - - - - 38

CHAPTER IV.

1798—1800. Return to Earlham—Attention to the Poor—Kindness to others—Appearance—Journey to the North of England—Visit to the Friends' School at Ackworth—Becomes a plain Friend—Proposals of Marriage from Mr. Fry—Letter to her cousin, Joseph Gurney Bevan—Letter to a young Friend - - - - - 64

CHAPTER V.

1800—1809. Marriage—First visit to Plashet—Settlement in London—Letter to a Friend—Yearly Meeting—Birth of eldest child, 1801—Journey into the North of England—Second daughter, born 1803—Birth of eldest son, 1804; illness and journey to Bath—Her second son, born 1806—Death of her mother-in-law—Birth of her fifth child, 1808—Letter to Mr. and Mrs. John Gurney—Death of her sister, Mrs. John Gurney—The Rev. Edward Edwards—Death of her father-in-law - - - - - - - - 95

CHAPTER VI.

1809—1812. Removal to Plashet, enjoyment of the country—Birth of her sixth child, 1809—Summons into Norfolk—Death of her father—Extract from the journal of Rachel Gurney—Commencement of her public ministry—Journey into the West of England—Letter to her children—Letter to the Rev. Edward Edwards—Funeral of her cousin Mrs. Jacob Reynolds—Letter to a distant friend—Visit to Earlham—Journey into Gloucestershire—Birth of her seventh child, 1811—Acknowledged as a minister by Friends—Attention to the Poor School, &c.—Norwich Bible Society—More extended intercourse with others—Effects upon her mind - - - - 139

CHAPTER VII.

1811—1814. Death of a little niece—Journey with Henry Hull and her sister, Priscilla Gurney—Visit to the Meetings of Friends in Norfolk—Extract from a letter to her cousin, J. G. Bevan—Letter to the Rev. Edward Edwards—Death of a domestic servant—Death of Mrs. James Sheppard—Birth of her eighth child, 1812—Letter to her cousin, J. G. Bevan—Removal to London for the winter—Religious visit to Friends of the London Quarterly Meeting—For the first time goes to Newgate, February, 1813—State of that prison - - 178

CHAPTER VIII.

1813—1817. Letter to the Rev. Edward Edwards—Summer at Plashet—Illness during the spring—Her ninth child born, 1814—Letter to her cousin, J. G. Bevan—Illness and death of her brother John Gurney—Letter to her family—Death of Joseph Gurney Bevan—Illness of her babe—Journey into Norfolk—Earlham, party assembled there—Visit to Kingston Monthly Meeting—Death of one of her children—Extracts from letters—Attends Dorsetshire Quarterly Meeting—Her tenth child born, 1816—Leaves her four elder children in Norfolk—Letters to her daughters—Removal to London for the winter—Attends the funeral of her cousin Joseph Gurney, Jun.—Places her two elder sons at school - - - - - - - 204

CHAPTER IX.

1817, 1818. Extract from Crabbe's Poems—Letter to her sister—General state of Prisons—School in Newgate—Case of Elizabeth Fricker—Newgate Association—Description from Buxton—Sophia de C——'s Journal—Vote of thanks from the City—Letters from Robert Barclay, Esq., &c.—Letters to her daughters—Notice in newspapers—Marriage of her brother, Joseph John Gurney—Extracts from letters—Winter in London—Examinations before House of Commons - 251

CHAPTER X.

1818. Return to Plashet—Capital Punishment—Case of Skelton—Duke of Gloucester and Lord Sidmouth—Queen Charlotte's Visit to the Mansion House—Letter to the Countess Harcourt—Maria Female Convict Ship—Visitors to Newgate, letter from Lady Mackintosh—Lord Lansdowne's Speech—Scotch Journey—Letter from the Countess Harcourt - - - - - - - 297

CHAPTER XI.

1819—1821. Takes her sons to school—Illness—Journey in consequence—Letters from prisoners—Reply—Return to Plashet, 1819—Letter to her son, William Storrs Fry—Spends the winter in London—Letter to her sons—Letter to Priscilla H. Gurney—Return to Plashet, 1820—Affliction in her family—Female convicts in New South Wales—Letter from the Rev. S. Marsden—Journey into the North of England—

Return to London for the winter—Letters to her daughters—Letter to Walter Venning, Esq.—Prisons in St. Petersburg—Letter from John Venning, Esq.—Foreign Prisons—Letter to Priscilla H. Gurney—Death of her sister, Priscilla Gurney—Resettlement at Plashet—1821—Capital punishments—Mackintosh's motion—Buxton's speech—Prison Discipline meeting - - - - - - 344

CHAPTER XII.

1821—1823. Marriage of one of her daughters—Birth of her youngest child and eldest grandchild—Letter to the Princess Royal of Denmark—Letter to J. J. Gurney, 1823. Death of a sister-in-law—Visits to several Meetings—Sale of prisoners' work—Convict ships—Adventure on the Thames—Letter to Admiral Sir Byam Martin—Letter to the Right Hon. R. W. Horton—Letter from the Duchess of ——.—Conclusion of 1823 - - - - - - - 396

CHAPTER XIII.

1824—1825. Journey to Worcester—Letter to a daughter—Serious illness—British Ladies' Society—Establishment of Manor Hall Asylum and School of Discipline at Chelsea—Brighton—District Visiting Society there—Books for preventive men, near Brighton—Letter from Dr. Steinkoff—Letter from Lieutenant C——, and his men—Dagenham—Return to Plashet—Letter to her daughter—Visit to Brighton—Death of her aunt, Mrs. Gurney—Death of Samuel Hoare, Esq.—Letter from her sister, Mrs. Hoare—Marriage of her eldest son—Autumn at Dagenham—Journey into Cornwall and Devonshire - - - 443

CHAPTER XIV.

1826–27. Ladies' Prison Meeting—Letter from Hannah More—Dagenham—Letter to her sister Rachel Gurney—Attends a marriage at Rochester—Convict ships—Letter to her daughter—Projected visit to Ireland—Goes to Earlham and Lynn—Letter to a sister—Letter from her sister Rachel Gurney—Farewell letter—Departure for Ireland—Letter to her family—Illness at Waterford—Return home. - 479

MEMOIR

OF THE

LIFE OF ELIZABETH FRY.

CHAPTER I.

1780—1792. Birth—Parentage—Descent—Her Mother, her character —Memoranda by her—Removal to Earlham—Death of Mrs. Gurney —Recollections by Elizabeth Fry, of her own early life.

ELIZABETH FRY was born in Norwich, on the 21st of May, 1780. She was the third daughter of John Gurney, Esq., of Earlham, in the county of Norfolk, and Catherine, daughter of Daniel Bell, a merchant in London; whose wife Catherine, daughter of David Barclay, was a descendant of the ancient family of the Barclays of Ury, in Kincardineshire, and granddaughter of Robert Barclay, the well-known apologist of the Quakers.

The name Gurney, or Gournay,* is of great antiquity in the county of Norfolk, and is derived from the town of Gournay en Brai, in Normandy. The Norman lords of which place, held fiefs in Norfolk, as early as the reign of William Rufus. Two younger branches of this Norman race existed for some centuries.

---

* See Burke's History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland, vol. i. p. 484.

The one which was the most distinguished, was seated in Somersetshire; the other at Hingham Gurneys, and West Barsham, in Norfolk, where it continued till 1661; when it became extinct in the direct male line, and the estates devolved on co-heiresses.

John Gurney, or Gournay, of Norwich, merchant, descended from a younger son of the West Barsham branch, was the immediate ancestor of the present family of Gurney.* He was born in 1655, and in early life embraced the tenets of the Society of Friends, on their first appearance, under George Fox their founder.

Joseph Gurney his son, purchased Keswick; which continues to be the residence of the head of the family. John Gurney, of Keswick, his son, died in 1770; leaving three sons, of whom John Gurney, of Earlham, the father of Elizabeth Fry, was the second. She was thus by many generations of both descents, an hereditary member of the Society of Friends.

John Gurney of Earlham, the father of the subject of this Memoir, was born in 1749, and was educated in the principles of the Society of Friends. As he advanced in life, his pursuits led to intercourse with persons of various denominations; this, with a naturally social disposition, induced unusual liberality of sentiment towards others. He was a man of ready talent, of bright discerning mind, singularly warm-hearted, and affectionate, very benevolent, and in manners courteous and popular.

His marriage with Catherine Bell took place in 1775.

Mr. and Mrs. John Gurney established themselves in a roomy quadrangular house in St. Clement's parish, Norwich, which belonged to that branch of the family; where for some years they passed the winter months, spending the summer at Bramerton, a pretty village about four miles from Norwich, in an unpretending cheerful dwelling on the Common.

---

* See Burke's Commoners.

Mrs. Gurney was a person of excellent abilities, and of considerable attainments, as well as much personal beauty. She was disposed to scientific and intellectual pursuits, and singularly delighted in the charms and beauties of nature, imbuing her children, almost in infancy, with tastes that have remained with them through life. She preferred society that might be termed literary, to such as merely resulted from local circumstances.

At the period of which we speak, talent was frequently allied to scepticism, and the highest attainments in human learning were too often unaccompanied by soundness of religious faith. Many persons doubted; even more were indifferent to the great truths of Christianity; and so general was this state of things, that individuals of personal piety, who moreover earnestly desired the prosperity of the kingdom of Christ, too little considered the opinions entertained by others, and associated freely with those whose religious belief was essentially at variance with their own. We cannot doubt, but, that to a certain extent, such was the case with Mr. and Mrs. Gurney; or that it had an injurious effect upon their family, especially after the death of Mrs. Gurney; who laboured faithfully for the good of her children, reading the Bible with them, and urging upon them the necessity of prayer and personal piety. She watched minutely over the formation of character and habit, and planted in their young minds seeds, of which, they long afterwards reaped the excellent fruits.

Her own words, in memoranda found after her death, are so descriptive of her, that they find a fitting place here.

Bramerton, April 1788.—In the morning endeavour, at first waking, to bring the mind into a state of silent waiting and worship, preparatory to the active employment of the day; when up, visit the several apartments of the children, and, if leisure permit, before breakfast read the scriptures, if not, it should not be afterwards omitted; forget not the kindest attentions to my dearest companion before parting for the day. After walking with the little ones, and endeavouring to enjoy each individually, begin with the necessary instructions for Catherine and Rachel; then attend to the kitchen and all family regulations, and to the claims of the poor. When S. B. (the governess) has completed John's lessons, he may be suffered to play abroad with Peter (the coachman) or the gardener, but occasional admonition should be given, as to their conduct before him; visit the nurseries, with a view to arrange all matters to the advantage of the children: from thence repair to S. B.'s apartment, to attend from twelve to two o'clock, to assist in the education of the three eldest girls, who, as S. B. begins at ten o'clock with Kitty, are supposed to have advanced considerably in their lessons, before they are joined by me; endeavour after patience and forbearance in this most important affair, which when completed for the day, may be succeeded by a walk, dressing, and again attending the nurseries before dinner; at which time, forget not the excellent custom of grateful, pious acknowledgment for blessings bestowed. The introduction of the children after this meal, generally affords my dear husband and myself an opportunity of the united enjoyment of our domestic comforts. A short afternoon may either be devoted to the company of my dear husband, or to writing letters, reading, or instructing the children alternately; particularly in the knowledge of the scriptures; also in the superintendence of S. B.'s apartment. Before tea, or immediately after, to assemble the little ones, to take particular and individual leave of each other; and the few remaining hours of the evening to be devoted to the promotion of my husband's enjoyment, and, if possible, to blend instruction and amusement for the elder children, who are our constant companions till the time of rest. Then being quiet and uninterrupted with my best friend, be not unmindful of the religious duties of life; which consideration, may, I hope, lead to that trust in Providence, that gives spiritual tranquillity and spiritual support.

Remember, that these desultory remarks are designed, first, to promote my duty to my Maker—secondly, my duty towards my husband and children, relations, servants and poor neighbours.

Earlham, 1792.—"If in conversation we studied rather to avoid whatever may in its nature be reprehensible, than to search for approbation or admiration, would not associating with our friends become more innocent if not more profitable? If our piety does not appear adequate to supporting us in the exigencies of life, and I may add, death; surely our hearts cannot be sufficiently devoted to it. It may be encouraging to the poor traveller through life to consider, that as he recedes from vice he approaches towards virtue; and as he despises the one, he will become enamoured with the other. Modern authors on religion and morality, describe perhaps very well what human nature ought to be, but do they sufficiently point out the means of becoming so? Do they direct the inquirer to the still small voice within?

Books of controversy on religion are seldom read with profit, not even those in favour of our own particular tenets. The mind stands less in need of conviction than conversion.

Remarks on Education.

As our endeavours in education, as in every other pursuit, should be regulated by the ultimate design; it would be certainly wise, in those engaged in the important office of instructing youth, to consider, what would render the objects of their care perfect, when men or women; rather than what will render them pleasing as children. These reflections have led me to decide upon what I most covet for my daughters, as the result of our daily pursuits. As piety is undoubtedly the shortest and securest way to all moral rectitude, young women should be virtuous and good, on the broad firm basis of Christianity; therefore, it is not the opinions of any man or sect whatever, that are to be inculcated in preference to those rigid but divine truths, contained in the New Testament.

As it appears to be our reasonable duty to improve our faculties, and by that means to render ourselves useful; it is necessary and very agreeable, to be well informed of our own language, and the Latin as being the most permanent; and the French as being the most in general request. The simple beauties of mathematics appear to be so excellent an exercise to the understanding, that they ought on no account to be omitted, and are perhaps scarcely less essential, than a competent knowledge of ancient and modern history, geography, and chronology. To which may be added, a knowledge of the most approved branches of natural history, and a capacity of drawing from nature, in order to promote that knowledge, and facilitate the pursuit of it. As a great portion of a woman's life ought to be passed, in at least regulating the subordinate affairs of a family; she should work plain work neatly herself, understand the cutting out of linen; also, she should not be ignorant of the common proprieties of a table, or deficient in the economy of any of the most minute affairs of a family. It should be here observed, that gentleness of manner is indispensably necessary in women, to say nothing of that polished behaviour, that adds a charm to every qualification; to both of which, it appears pretty certain, children may be led without vanity or affectation, by amiable and judicious instruction.

As children are not without some latent sense of their duty to their Maker, perhaps the following observations would not be amiss to offer, when they first go to a place of worship. Since we know that He, who gave us life, health, and strength of body, has given us an understanding mind, which will shew us what is reasonable and right to do, we ought to consider, whether it is not right to love and obey that excellent Being, who has certainly placed us here on earth and surrounded us with blessings and enjoyments, that we may become as He would have us; that is, good; and that we should adore and love Him at all times; but as many things happen to lead the mind from this adoration and love of God, which is His due, and our truest enjoyment, it is necessary to retire with our friends and neighbours from hurry and business, that we may think of Him who delights to bless us, and will consider us as His children, if we love Him as a heavenly Father. Do not, then, my dear child, suffer thy thoughts to wander, or to dwell upon trifles, when thou art most immediately before Him, whom thou must strive to love, with all thy heart and soul.

In the year 1786, Mr. and Mrs. Gurney removed to Earlham Hall, a seat of the Bacon family, about two miles from Norwich. Mr. Gurney subsequently purchased an adjoining property, thus adding to the range and variety afforded to his large young party, by that pleasant home. Earlham has peculiar charms from its diversified scenery. The house is large, old, and irregular; placed in the centre of a well-wooded park. The river Wensum, a clear winding stream, flows by it. Its banks, overhung by an avenue of ancient timber trees, formed a favourite resort of the young people; there, in the summer evenings, they would often meet to walk, read or sketch. On the south-front of the house extends a noble lawn, flanked by groves of trees growing from a carpet of wild flowers, moss and long grass. Every nook, every green path at Earlham tells a tale of the past, and recalls to those, who remember the time when they were peopled by that joyous party, the many loved ones of the number, who, having shared with one another the pleasures of youth, the cares of maturer age, and above all, the hope of Immortality, are now together at rest!

Of the twelve children of Mr. and Mrs. Gurney, nine were born before their removal to Earlham; one of them died in infancy. The three youngest sons were born after their settlement there.

The mode of life at Bramerton was continued with little alteration at Earlham, till November, 1792, when it pleased God to remove from this large family, the kind mistress—the loving wife—the devoted mother. She died after an illness of three weeks leaving eleven children, the eldest scarcely seventeen, the youngest, not two years old. During a period of comparative leisure, Elizabeth Fry occupied herself in perusing her early journals. She thought it well to destroy all that were written before the year 1797, and to substitute the following sketch of their contents, assisted by her own recollections.

Dagenham, Eighth Month 23*rd,* 1828.—My earliest recollections are, I should think, soon after I was two years old. My father at that time had two houses, one in Norwich, and one at Bramerton, a sweet country place, situated on a Common, near a pretty village; here, I believe, many of my early tastes were formed, though we left to reside at Earlham, when I was about five years old. The impressions then received remain lively on my recollection; the delight in the beauty and wild scenery in parts of the Common, the trees, the flowers, and the little rills, that abounded on it, the farm-houses, the village school, and the different poor people and their cottages; particularly a poor woman with one arm, whom we called one-armed Betty; another neighbour, Greengrass, and her strawberry beds round a little pond; our gardener, who lived near a large piece of water, and used to bring fish from it; here, I think, my great love for the country, the beauties of nature, and attention to the poor, began. My mother was most dear to me, and the walks she took with me in the old-fashioned garden, are as fresh with me, as if only just passed; and her telling me about Adam and Eve being driven out of Paradise: I always considered it must be just like our garden at Bramerton. I remember that my spirits were not strong; that I frequently cried if looked at, and used to say that my eyes were weak; but I remember much pleasure and little suffering, or particular tendency to naughtiness, up to this period. Fear about this time began to show itself, of people and things: I remember being so much afraid of a gun, that I gave up an expedition of pleasure with my father and mother, because there was a gun in the carriage. I was also exceedingly afraid of the dark, and suffered so acutely from being left alone without a light after I went to bed, that I believe my nervous system was injured in consequence of it; also, I had so great a dread of bathing, (to which I was at times obliged to submit,) that the first sight of the sea, when we were as a family going to stay by it, would make me cry; indeed, fear was so strong a principle in my mind, as greatly to mar the natural pleasure of childhood. I am now of opinion, that it would have been much more subdued, and great suffering spared, by its having been still more yielded to; by having a light left in my room, not being long left alone; and never forced to bathe; for I do not at all doubt that it partly arose from that nervous susceptible constitution, that has at times, throughout my life, caused me such real and deep suffering. I know not what would have been the consequence, had I had any other than a most careful and wise mother and judicious nurses, or had I been alarmed, as too many children are, by false threats of what might happen.

I had, as well as a fearful, rather a reserved mind, for I never remember telling of my many painful fears, though I must often have shown them by weeping when left in the dark, and on other occasions: this reserve made me little understood, and thought very little of, except by my mother and one or two others. I was considered and called very stupid and obstinate. I certainly did not like learning, nor did I, I believe, attend to my lessons, partly from a delicate state of health, that produced languor of mind as well as body; but, I think, having the name of being stupid really tended to make me so, and discouraged my efforts to learn. I remember having a poor, not to say low opinion of myself, and used to think that I was so very inferior to my sisters, Catherine and Rachel. I believe I had not a name only for being obstinate, for my nature had then a strong tendency that way; and I was disposed to a spirit of contradiction, always ready to see things a little differently from others, and not willing to yield my sentiments to theirs.

My natural affections were very strong from my early childhood, at times almost overwhelmingly so; such was the love for my mother, that the thought that she might die and leave me used to make me weep after I went to bed, and for the rest of the family, that notwithstanding my fearful nature, my childlike wish was, that two large walls might crush us all together, that we might die at once, and thus avoid the misery of each other's death. I seldom, if I could help it, left my mother's side, I watched her when asleep in the day with exquisite anxiety, and used to go gently to her bed-side to listen, from the awful fear that she did not breathe; in short, I may truly say, it amounted to deep reverence, that I felt for my father and mother. I never remember, as a little child, but once being punished by my mother; and she then mistook tears of sorrow for tears of naughtiness, a thing that deeply impressed me, and I have never forgotten the pain it gave me. Although I do not imply that I had no faults, far from it, as some of the faults of my childhood are very lively in my recollection; yet from my extreme love and fear, many of these faults were known almost only to myself. My imagination was lively, and I once remember, and only once, telling a real untruth with one of my sisters and one of my brothers. We saw a bright light one morning, which we represented far above the reality, and upon the real thing being shown us that we had seen, we made it out not to be it. My remembrance is of the pleasure of my childhood being almost spoiled through fear, and my religious impressions, such as I had, were accompanied by gloom: on this account, I think the utmost care needed, in representing religious truth to children, that fearful views of it should be most carefully avoided, lest it should give a distaste for that which is most precious. First show them the love and mercy of God in Christ Jesus, and the sweetness and blessedness of his service; and such things in scripture, for instance, as Abraham's sacrifice, should be carefully explained to them. I think I suffered much in my youth from the most tender nervous system; I certainly felt symptoms of ill health before my mother died, that I thought of speaking to her about, but never did, partly because I did not know how to explain them; but they ended afterwards in very severe attacks of illness. I have always thought being forced to bathe was one cause of this, and I mention it, because I believe it a dangerous thing to do to children. What care is needful not to force children to learn too much, as it not only injures them, but gives a distaste for intellectual pursuits. Instruction should be adapted to their condition, and communicated in an easy and agreeable way.

How great is the importance of a wise mother, directing the tastes of her children in very early life, and judiciously influencing their affections! I remember with pleasure my mother's beds for wild flowers, which, with delight, I used, as a child, to attend to with her; it gave me that pleasure in observing their beauties and varieties, that though I never have had time to become a botanist, few can imagine, in my many journeys, how I have been pleased and refreshed, by observing and enjoying the wild flowers on my way. Again, she collected shells, and had a cabinet, and bought one for Rachel and myself, where we placed our curiosities; and I may truly say, in the midst even of deep trouble, and often most weighty engagements of a religious and philanthropic nature, I have derived advantage, refreshment, and pleasure, from my taste for these things, making collections of them, and various natural curiosities, although, as with the flowers, I have not studied them scientifically.

My mother also encouraged my most close friendship with my sister Rachel, and we had our pretty light closet, our books, our pictures, our curiosities, our tea things, all to ourselves; and as far as I can recollect, we unitedly partook of these pleasures, without any of the little jealousies, or the quarrels of childhood.

My mother, as far as she knew, really trained us up in the fear and love of the Lord; my deep impression is, that she was a holy devoted follower of the Lord Jesus; but that her understanding was not fully enlightened as to the fulness of gospel truth. She taught us as far as she knew, and I now remember the solemn religious feelings I had whilst sitting in silence with her after reading the scriptures, or a Psalm before we went to bed. I have no doubt that her prayers were not in vain in the Lord. She died when I was twelve years old; the remembrance of her illness and death is sad, even to the present day.

CHAPTER II.

1790—1798. Sketch of female society—Circumstances of Elizabeth Gurney and her sisters—Her character and habits—Natural qualities as a young person—Absence of religious knowledge—Established principles requisite to happiness—William Savery comes to Norwich on a religious visit—General view of the origin and opinions of the Quakers—Effects of William Savery's preaching—Description by himself—Account by one of her sisters—Her own journal.

Among the vast changes of the last century, there was no change greater than that which took place in the education of women.

Addison, and his coadjutors, were among the foremost to teach the women of modern England, that they possessed powers of mind, and capabilities of usefulness. Many, as they sipped their coffee, with the Spectator of the morning in their hand, were awakened to the consciousness of a higher destiny for woman, than the labour of the tapestry frame, or pursuits of an entirely frivolous nature. A taste for reading became more or less general. The heavy wisdom of Johnson, the lighter wit of Swift, the satire of Pope, the pathos of Gray, and the close painting of Goldsmith, found among women not only those who could enjoy, but who could appreciate their different excellencies. Mrs. Montague, Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Chapone, with a group of gifted friends and associates, proved to the world the possibility of high literary attainments existing with every feminine grace and virtue. The stimulus was given, but like all other changes in society, the opposite extreme was reached, before the right and reasonable was discovered. Infidelity was making slow, though sure advances upon the Continent. Rousseau and

Voltaire were but types of the state of feeling and principles in France. The effects gradually extended to our own country, and England has to blush for the perversion of female talent, the evil influence of which, was only counteracted by shewing as a beacon light, to warn others from shipwreck. Science and philosophy, so called, advanced and flourished, but by their side flourished also the Upas tree of infidelity, poisoning with its noxious breath the flowers and the fruits, otherwise so pleasant to the eye, and so good for the use of man. The writings of Hannah More were well calculated to enlighten and improve her sex; she spoke as woman can alone speak to women; but she was then only rising into celebrity, and as an author little known.

Norwich had not escaped the general contagion. On the contrary, at the period of which we speak, it was noted for the charm, the talent, and the scepticism of the society of the town and neighbourhood. The death of Mrs. Gurney, had left her seven daughters, unprotected by a mother's care, to pursue the difficult path of early womanhood. They appear to have been rich in attraction and talent, lively and original, possessing a peculiar freshness of character, with singular purity of purpose, and warmth of affection. But their faith was obscure, and their principles necessarily unfixed and wavering. They appreciated the beauty and excellence of religion; but it was natural, rather than revealed religion with which they were acquainted.

There was something of mysticism amongst the Quakers of that day, and by no means the clear and general acknowledgment of the doctrine of the "*Trinity* in *Unity*," as revealed in the New Testament, which is now to be met with amongst the greater part of the Society of "Friends." To the present time, that expression, as designating the Deity, is not in use among them, from its not being found in the Bible. The family of Mr. Gurney, thus left to their own resources, unaccustomed to the study of the scriptures, and with no other sources of information from which to learn, for a time were permitted to "stumble upon the dark mountains, seeking rest and finding none."

These remarks apply especially to the three elder daughters, as they gradually advanced into life. The four younger ones, sheltered in the school-room, were comparatively spared the difficulties through which their sisters were pioneering the way. Mr. Gurney's occupations, both public and private, and his naturally trustful disposition, prevented his seeing all the dangers to which they were exposed. They formed many acquaintances, and some friendships, with persons greatly gifted by nature, but fearfully tainted by the prevailing errors of the day. Great pain and bitter disappointment resulted from these connexions; but demanding only an allusion here, as they indirectly affected Elizabeth through the sufferings of others, and the experience gained to herself.

To the gaieties of the world, in the usual acceptation of the term, they were but little exposed. Music and dancing are not allowed by Friends; though a scruple, as to the former, is by no means universal. Mr. Gurney had no objection to music: they had all a taste for it, though almost uncultivated; some of them sang delightfully. The sweet and trilling pathos of their native warblings are still remembered with pleasure by those who heard them, especially the duets of Rachel and Elizabeth. They danced occasionally in the large anti-room leading to the drawing-room, but with little of the spirit of display so often manifested on these occasions. It was more an effusion of young joyous hearts, who thus sought and found an outlet for their mirth. When her health permitted it, no one of the party entered with more zest into these amusements than Elizabeth. Her figure tall, and at that time slight and graceful, was peculiarly fitted for dancing. She was also an excellent horsewoman, and road fearlessly and well; but she suffered much from delicacy of constitution, and was liable to severe nervous attacks, which often impeded her joining her sisters in their different objects and pursuits. In countenance, she is described as having been as a young person very sweet and pleasing, with a profusion of soft flaxen hair, though, perhaps, not so glowing and handsome as some of her sisters.

She had much native grace, and to many people was very attractive. Elizabeth was not studious by nature, and was, as a child, though gentle and quiet in temper, self-willed and determined. In a letter, written before she was three years old, her mother thus mentions her:—"My dove-like Betsey scarcely ever offends, and is, in every sense of the word, truly engaging." Her dislike to learning proved a serious disadvantage to her after she lost her mother; her education, consequently, being defective and unfinished. In natural talent, she was quick and penetrating, and had a depth of originality very uncommon. As she grew older, enterprise and benevolence were two predominant features in her character. In contemplating her peculiar gifts, it is wonderful to observe the adaptation of her natural qualities to her future career; and how, through the transforming power of divine grace, each one became subservient to the highest purposes. Her natural timidity changed to the opposite virtue of courage, but with such holy moderation and nice discretion, as never failed to direct it aright. The touch of obstinacy she displayed as a child, became that finely tempered decision and firmness, which enabled her to execute her projects for the good of her fellow-creatures. That which was in childhood something not unlike cunning, ripened into the most uncommon penetration, long-sightedness, and skill in influencing the minds of those around her. Her disinclination to the common methods of learning, appeared to be connected with much original thought, and a mind acting on its own resources; for she certainly always possessed more genius and ready quick comprehension, than application or argument.

Such were the circumstances, and such the characteristics of Elizabeth Gurney and her sisters, after the death of their mother: and years passed on, with few changes, but such as necessarily came with the lapse of time, and their advance in age. But He who had purposes of mercy towards them; in His own way, and in His own good time, was preparing for them emancipation from their doubts, and light for darkness. Wonderful is it to mark how, by little and little, through various instruments, through mental conflicts, through bitter experience, He gradually led them, each one, into the meridian light of day—the glorious liberty of the children of God.

At a time when religion in a more gloomy form might not have gained a hearing; when the graver countenance of rebuke would probably have been unheeded, a gentleman became acquainted with the Earlham family, of high principle, and cultivated mind. With him the sisters formed a strong and lasting friendship. He addressed himself to their understandings, on the grand doctrines of Christianity; he referred them to the written word as the rule of life; he lent them, and read with them, books of a religious tendency. He treated religion, as such, with reverence; and although himself a Roman Catholic, he abstained from every controversial topic, nor ever used his influence, directly or indirectly, in favour of his own church. There was another individual who proved an important instrument, in leading the sisters to sound views of religion, though, when first acquainted with them, herself wandering in the wilderness of doubt, if not of error. This was Marianne Galton, afterwards Mrs. Schimmelpenninck.* Being a highly educated person, of great mental power, and accustomed to exercise her abilities in the use of her reason and an honest search after truth; she acquired considerable influence over them. As the truth of revelation opened upon her own understanding, and her heart became influenced by it, they shared in her advance, and profited by her experience. There were other individuals with whom they associated, whose influence was desirable, but less powerful, than that of either Miss Galton or Mr. Pitchford.

---

* Authoress of a Tour to Alet and the Grande Chartreuse, &c., &c.,

They appear also to have derived advantage, at times, from the religious visits of Friends to Earlham. The family of Mr. Gurney were in the habit of attending no place of worship, but the Friends' meeting. The attendance of Elizabeth was continually impeded by want of health, and it is difficult to know when the habit of absenting herself might have been broken through, but for her uncle, Joseph Gurney; who urged the duty upon her, and encouraged her to make the attempt. He was a decided Friend, and had much influence with her, both then, and during her future life. She was ready, indeed, to essay any thing, that might tend to satisfy her conscience, or meet the cravings of her heart, for a something which as yet she had not obtained. There is occasionally to be met with in the character of fallen man, a longing after perfection—after that which can alone satisfy the immortal spirit; this she experienced in no common measure. Her Journal is replete with desires after "virtue" and "truth." She seeks and finds God in His works, but as yet she had not found Him, as He stands revealed in the page of inspiration.

January, 1797.—My mind is in so dark a state, that I see everything through a black medium.

April.—Why do I so much wish for the Prince* to come? Pride, alas! is the cause. Do such feelings hurt my mind? they may not in this instance, but if given way to, they are difficult to overcome. How am I to overcome them?

---

* H. R. H. William Frederick, afterwards Duke of Gloucester, then quartered at Norwich.

April.—Without passions of any kind how different I should be! I would not give them up, but I should like to have them under subjection; but it appears to me, as I feel, impossible to govern them, my mind is not strong enough, as I at times think they do no hurt to others. But am I sure they will hurt no one? I believe by not governing myself in little things, I may by degrees become a despicable character, and a curse to society; therefore, my doing wrong is of consequence to others, as well as to myself. "As the beams of the sun irradiate the earth, and yet remain where they were, so it is, in some proportion, with an holy mind, that illustrates all our actions, and yet adheres to its original."—*Seneca's Morals.*

April 25th.—I feel by experience, how much entering into the world hurts me; worldly company, I think, materially injures, it excites a false stimulus, such as a love of pomp, pride, vanity, jealousy, and ambition; it leads to think about dress, and such trifles, and when out of it, we fly to novels and scandal, or something of that kind, for entertainment. I have lately been given up a good deal to worldly passions; by what I have felt I can easily imagine how soon I should be quite led away.

29*th.*—I met the Prince, it showed me the folly of the world; my mind feels very flat after this storm of pleasure.

May 16*th.*—There is a sort of luxury in giving way to the feelings! I love to feel for the sorrows of others, to pour wine and oil into the wounds of the afflicted; there is a luxury in feeling the heart glow, whether it be with joy or sorrow. I think the different periods of life may well be compared to the seasons. First, we are in the spring, only buds are to be seen, next, our characters are blown, and it is summer; autumn follows, and there are then many remains of summer, and beautiful ones too; there springs also the best fruit from the summer flower. Winter must come, it will follow in its course; there is not much more pleasure then, than collecting a few solitary berries, and playing with the snow and ice.

I like to think of everything, to look at mankind.; I love to "look through Nature up to Nature's God." I have no more religion than that, and in the little I have I am not the least devotional, but when I admire the beauties of nature, I cannot help thinking of the source from whence such beauties flow. I feel it a support. I believe firmly that all is guided for the best by an invisible power, therefore I do not fear the evils of life so much. I love to feel good—I do what I can to be kind to everybody. I have many faults which I hope in time to overcome.

18*th.*—Most likely about a hundred years from this time, neither one person, nor anything that has life, will be alive. What is still more wonderful is, that all should be so continually changing, almost without our observation.

Monday, 21*st.*—I am seventeen to day. Am I a happier or a better creature than I was this time twelvemonths ? I know I am happier ; I think I am better. I hope I shall be much better this day year than I am now. I hope to be quite an altered person, to have more knowledge, to have my mind in greater order ; and my heart, too, that wants to be put in order as much, if not more, than any part of me, it is in such a fly-away state ; but I think if ever it were settled on one object it would never, no never, fly away any more ; it would rest quietly and happily on the heart that was open to receive it, it will then be most constant ; it is not my fault it now flies away, it is owing to circumstances.

30*th.*—It is a great comfort to me that life is short, and soon passes away—yet, it is certainly a pleasure or blessing to exist. I think I have now no reason to wish to die, I am so well ; but I must own with ill health, such as I used to have, life is a burden; perhaps I now think worse of it than I did when I had it, for the imagination increases evils at a distance, as it does every thing else; I was supported through it, whilst it lasted : though I was very unhappy, I could not call myself a miserable being. Ill health is certainly a deprivation of the powers of life ; we do but half live when ill : my fate is guided by an all-wise and all-virtuous Director, I shall not be ill, unless it is right I should be so.

Monday, June.—I am at this present time in an odd state ; I am like a ship put out to sea without a pilot; I feel my heart and mind so over burdened, I want some one to lean upon.

(*Written on a bright summer's morning.*)

Is there not a ray of perfection amidst the sweets of this morning? I do think there is something perfect from which all good flows.

20th.—If I have long to live in this world, may I bear misfortunes with fortitude; do what I can to alleviate the sorrows of others, exert what power I have to increase happiness; try to govern my passions by reason, and adhere strictly to what I think right.

July 7th.—I have seen several things in myself and others, I have never before remarked; but I have not tried to improve myself, I have given way to my passions, and let them have command over me. I have known my faults, and not corrected them, and now I am determined I will once more try, with redoubled ardour, to overcome my wicked inclinations; I must not flirt; I must not ever be out of temper with the children; I must not contradict without a cause; I must not mump when my sisters are liked and I am not; I must not allow myself to be angry; I must not exaggerate, which I am inclined to do. I must not give way to luxury; I must not be idle in mind, I must try to give way to every good feeling, and overcome every bad; I will see what I can do; if I had but perseverance, I could do all that I wish, I will try. I have lately been too satirical, so as to hurt sometimes; remember! it is a fault to hurt others.

8th.—A much better day, though many faults.

10th.—Some poor people were here; I do not think I gave them what I did, with a good heart. I am inclined to give away; but for a week past, owing to not having much money, I have been mean and extravagant. Shameful! Whilst I live, may I be generous; it is in my nature, and I will not overcome so good a feeling. I an inclined to be extravagant, and that leads to meanness, for those who will throw away a good deal, are apt to mind giving a little.

11th.—I am in a most idle mind, and inclined to have an indolent dissipated day; but I will try to overcome it, and see how far I can. I am well, oh, most inestimable of comforts! Happy, happy I, to be so well; how good, how virtuous, ought I to be! May what I have suffered be a lesson to me, to feel for those who are ill, and alleviate their sorrows as far as lies in my power; let it teach me never to forget the blessings I enjoy. I ought never to be unhappy;—look back at this time last year, how ill I was, how miserable;—yet I was supported through it; God will support through the suffering He inflicts; if I were devotional, I should fall on my knees and be most grateful for the blessings I enjoy; a good father, one whom I dearly love, sisters formed after my own heart, friends whom I admire, and good health, which gives a relish to all. Company to dinner; I must beware of being a flirt, it is an abominable character; I hope I shall never be one, and yet I fear I am one now a little. Be careful not to talk at random. Beware, and see how well I can get through this day, without one foolish action. If I do pass this day without one foolish action, it is the first I ever passed so. If I pass a day with only a few foolish actions, I may think it a good one.

25*th*.—This book is quite a little friend to my heart; it is next to communicating my feelings to another person. I would not but write in it for something, for it is most comfortable to read it over and see the different workings of my heart and soul.

30*th*.—Pride and vanity are too much the incentives to most of the actions of men, they produce a love of admiration, and in thinking of the opinions of others, we are too apt to forget the monitor within. We should first look to ourselves and try to make ourselves virtuous, and then pleasing. Those who are truly virtuous not only do themselves good, but they add to the good of all. All have a portion entrusted to them of the general good, and those who cherish and preserve it are blessings to society at large; and those who do not become a curse. It is wonderfully ordered, how in acting for our own good, we promote the good of others. My idea of religion is, not for it to unfit us for the duties of life, like a nun who leaves them for prayer and thanksgiving; but I think it should stimulate and capacitate us to perform these duties properly. Seeing my father low this evening, I have done all I can to make him comfortable, I feel it one of my first duties; I hope he will always find in me a most true friend and affectionate daughter.

August 1st.—I have done little to day, I am so very idle; instead of improving I fear I go back; I think I may improve, being so young, but I also think there is every chance of my disimproving; my inclinations lead me to be an idle, flirting, worldly girl. I see what would be acting right, but I have neither activity nor perseverance in what I think right. I am like one setting out on a journey; if I set out on the wrong road, and do not try to recover the right one before I have gone far, I shall most likely lose my way for *ever*, and every step I take, the more difficult shall I find it to return, therefore the temptation will be greater to go on, till I get to destruction. On the contrary, if now, whilst I am innocent of any great faults, I turn into the right path, I shall feel more and more contented every step I take, and if I do now and then err a little from the proper path I shall not find it so hard to return to it, for I I shall by degrees find the road to vice more and more unpleasant. Trifles occupy me far too much, such as dress &c., &c. I find it easier to acknowledge my vices than my follies.

6th.—I have a cross to-night. I had very much set my mind on going to the Oratorio, the Prince is to be there, and by all accounts it will be quite a grand sight, and there will be the finest music; but if my father does not like me to go, much as I wish it, I will give it up with pleasure, if it be in my power, without a murmur.—I went to the Oratorio, I enjoyed it, but spoke sadly at random; what a bad habit!!

12th.—I do not know if I shall not soon be rather religious, because I have thought lately, what a support it is through life; it seems so delightful to depend upon a superior power, for all that is good; it is at least always having the bosom of a friend open to us, (in imagination) to rest all our cares and sorrows upon, and what must be our feelings to imagine that friend perfect, and guiding all and everything, as it should be guided. I think anybody who had real faith, could never be unhappy ; it appears the only certain source of support and comfort in this life, and what is best of all, it draws to virtue, and if the idea be ever so ill founded that leads to that great object, why should we shun it ? Religion has been misused and corrupted, that is no reason why religion itself is not good I fear being religious, in case I should be enthusiastic.

15*th.*—For a few days past I have been in a worldly state, dissipated, a want of thought, idle, relaxed and stupid, all outside, no inside. I feel I am a contemptible fine lady. May I be preserved from continuing so, is the ardent prayer of my *good* man, but my *evil* man tells me I shall pray in vain. I will try. I fear for myself, I feel in the course of a little time I shall be all outside flippery, vain, proud, conceited ; I could use improper words at myself, but my *good* man will not let me. But I am good in something, it is wicked to despair of myself, it is the way to make me what I desire not to be, I hope I shall always be virtuous ; can I be really wicked ? I may be so, if I do not overcome my first weak inclinations. I wish I had more solidity and less fluidity in my disposition. I feel my own weakness and insufficiency to bear the evils and rubs of life. I must try by every stimulus in my power, to strengthen myself both bodily and mentally, it can only be done by activity and perseverance.

19*th.*—Idle and relaxed in mind, greatly dissipated by hearing the band, &c. &c. Music has a great effect on me, it at times makes me feel almost beside myself.

30*th.*—"Come what, come may, time and the hour run through the roughest day," a very sad and trying day. Tried by being poorly, by others, and by myself: very far from what I ought to be.

Sept. 3*rd.*—There is much difference between being obstinate and steady; I am obstinate, when I contradict for the sake of contradiction ; I am steady, when I keep to what I really think right. I am too apt to contradict, whether I should or not. If I am bid to do a thing, my spirit revolts ; if I am asked to do a thing, I am willing.

December.—A thought passed my mind, that if I had some religion, I should be superior to what I am, it would be a bias to better actions; I think I am by degrees, losing many excellent qualities. I am more cross, more proud, more vain, more extravagant. I lay it to my great love of gaiety, and the world. I feel, I know I am falling. I do believe if I had a little true religion, I should have a greater support than I have now; in virtue my mind wants a stimulus; never, no never did mind want one more: but I have the greatest fear of religion, because I never saw a person religious, who was not enthusiastic.

January, 1798.—I must die! I shall die! wonderful, death is beyond comprehension. To leave life, and all its interests, and be almost forgotten by those we love. What a comfort must a real faith in religion be, in the hour of death; to have a firm belief of entering into everlasting joy. I have a notion of such a thing, but I am sorry to say, I have no real faith in any sort of religion; it must be a comfort and support in affliction, and I know enough of life to see, how great a stimulus is wanted, to support through the evils that are inflicted, and to keep in the path of virtue. If religion be a support, why not get it?

14*th.*—I think it almost impossible to keep strictly to principle, without religion; I don't feel any real religion; I should think those feelings impossible to obtain, for even if I thought all the Bible was true, I do not think I could make myself feel it: I think I never saw any person, who appeared so totally destitute of it. I fear I am by degrees, falling away from the path of virtue and truth.

16*th.*—My mind is in a state of fermentation, I believe I am going to be religious, or some such thing.

18*th.*—I am a bubble, without reason, without beauty of mind or person; I am a fool. I daily fall lower in my own estimation. What an infinite advantage it would be to me, to occupy my time and thoughts well. I am now seventeen, and if some kind, and great circumstance does not happen to me, I shall have my talents devoured by moth and rust. They will lose their brightness, lose their virtue, and one day they will prove a curse instead of a blessing. Dreaded day!!

I must use extreme exertion to act really right, to avoid idleness and dissipation.

It was on the 4th February, 1798, at the Friends' Meeting at Norwich, that Elizabeth Gurney appears for the first time, to have had her understanding opened to receive the gospel of Christ. The appointed instrument of this, to her most happy and wonderful change, was William Savery an American Friend, who had come to England, to pay what is termed in the language of Friends, a religious visit to this country. He appears to have been sound in the Christian faith, and to have laid due stress on the great doctrine of the atonement. He was a strict Friend ; earnest in urging a faithful obedience to the immediate guidings of the Spirit of God, yet careful, lest from any want of watchfulness and humility the youthful mind should be led into error.

From the time of their founder, George Fox, it has been the habit of Friends to travel occasionally, as ministers or preachers, in their own and other countries. There is needed but a glance at their origin and tenets, to perceive, that this must have formed an integral part of their principles.

When George Fox entered upon his remarkable career, the horizon in these realms was dark indeed ; but lowering as were the clouds which threatened the state, over the church of Christ, still heavier ones appeared to be impeding. The work of the Reformation had been by many considered as incomplete ; though, throughout the reign of Elizabeth they had patiently waited, hoping that her successor, trained in the school of Knox and the Scottish Reformers, would complete the work which they conceived to be but just begun. So far from their expectations being realized, James, on many occasions, shewed an obvious leaning to the religion of his mother ; and the same spirit was still more clearly displayed by his successor, Charles.

Under the counsels of Archbishop Laud, the King permitted, if he did not encourage the attempt, to restore many Romish rites and superstitions. Great laxity, even license, was allowed the people in habits and manners; whilst stringent laws were enforced, to bind men's consciences and produce uniformity of opinion. There were persons, who, though they deplored this state of things, were yet content to pursue a course of personal piety and virtue. Some individuals found in Puritanism, a religion consonant to their feelings. Many embraced the doctrine of the Anabaptists, but others remained dissatisfied, shrinking from papal darkness, which again threatened to cover the land; distrustful of the harsh and exclusive spirit of the Puritans, and alarmed at the excesses of the Anabaptists, they sought a deeper life in religion, and a more spiritual worship of Almighty God. Apparently to this juncture, and to this state of feeling, may be attributed the origin of Quakerism.

The parents of George Fox were members of the Established Church of England; and for a time he conformed to the external religious observances in which he had been educated; but his soul panted for the "waters of life," nor could he obtain rest until, to use his own expression, "He who hath the key did open and the Father of Life drew him to His Son by His Spirit."* Having thus been led himself into experimental acquaintance with vital godliness, he desired that others might partake with him in this glorious privilege; and from that time, he devoted a large portion of his life to travelling from place to place, to declare "the truth" as presented to his own mind. This chiefly consisted in urging upon his hearers, that the Light of Life was within them, and by obedience to its dictates, man might be brought to the saving knowledge of God; hence, he was led to the conviction, that he was called to bear testimony to the great and neglected Truth, that the "light that lighteneth every man that cometh into the world" must be sought by each individual in the recesses of his own bosom, in silence, in patient waiting, in pureness, in abstraction from outward things; and that he was to make a consistent protest and passive opposition to every thing that proceeded from the world, and had no saviour of Christ. That his dwelling so much upon the doctrine of Christ, being come in the Spirit, was not intended to the disparagement of the doctrine of Christ, having come in the flesh, was proved by the answers he gave to the following questions: he was asked why Christ cried out on the cross, "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me:" and why He said, "If it be possible let this cup pass from me, yet not my will, but Thine be done." George Fox replied, "That at that time, the sins of all mankind were upon Him, and their iniquities and transgressions with which He was wounded, and which He was to bear, and be an offering for, as He was man; but that He died not as He was God. So in that He died for all men, tasting death for every man, He was an offering for the sins of the whole world."* Many gradually united in the views and objects of George Fox; not that from him they learned the opinions, which they afterwards assisted in promulgating. They, like himself, desired a something, which they found not in the persuasions or lofty professions around them. Politics, and prejudice, and party feeling were rife in the land. Godliness as the great concern between man and his Maker, independent of human motive, was scarcely to be met with. Men of observation and earnestness perceived that the pure gold of devotion was everywhere alloyed by selfishness or design, and strove to find in a higher guidance, and the influence of the Divine

---

* George Fox, Folio Journal, p. 7. Third Edition. London, 1765.

---

* George Fox, Folio Journal, p. 4. Third Edition. London, 1765.

Light, a spiritual power capable of controlling alike, individuals and nations, and bring them under obedience to the Law of Christ.

To such men, the message of George Fox, was but an illustration or echo of their own sentiments, their own hopes, and expectations. They held, that man is able to obey the Divine will, without the help of outward law or ordinances. They looked upon salvation as a free gift, offered to all men. They believed that many would be saved by the Sacrifice of Christ, whose outward ears had never heard his name, through following the guidance of that, which St. John describes as "the light shining in darkness, but the darkness comprehending it not." They insisted on the importance of the Bible, as the rule of life; but maintained that, until the mind of men be illumined by the life-giving Spirit, it is not able to receive and comprehend its deep realities. Frequently, with their Bibles in their hands, they exhorted or persuaded, enforcing from this source instruction and reproof; but their general mode of worship consisted in silent waiting upon God; and believing in the immediate teaching of the Holy Spirit, one or another as he considered himself called to do so, addressed those assembled, in exhortation, or raised his voice in prayer. Among the persons who entertained these opinions, were to be found men, of almost every situation and position in society. The first to proclaim their principles in London were Edward Burrough, and Francis Howgill; the former died in Newgate, under hard and lengthened imprisonment. The Secretary of Milton was a Friend, named Thomas Ellwood; he had been born a gentleman, and educated as a scholar; his life is a curious history of the spirit and manners of that time. His account of a visit, before his own change of principles, to the house of Isaac Penington, an eminent writer amongst Friends, is very characteristic.

"I mentioned before, that during my father's abode in London, in the time of the civil wars, he contracted a friendship with a Lady Springett, then a widow, and afterwards married to Isaac Penington, Esq., to continue which, he sometimes visited them at their country lodgings, (as at Datchet and at Causham Lodge, near Reading). And having heard that they were come to live upon their own estate at Chalfont in Buckinghamshire, (about fifteen miles from Cowell,) he went one day to visit them there, and to return at night; taking me with him. But very much surprised we were, when being come thither, we first heard, then found, they were become Quakers; a people we had no knowledge of, and a name we had till then scarce heard of. So great a change from a free debonair and courtly sort of behaviour (which we formerly had found them in) to so strict a gravity as they now received us with, did not a little amuse us, and disappoint our expectation of such a pleasant visit as we used to have, and had now promised ourselves. Nor could my father have any opportunity by a private conference with them, to understand the ground or occasion of this change; there being some other strangers with them, (related to Isaac Penington) who came that morning from London to visit them also.

"For my part, I sought, and at length found means to cast myself into the company of the daughter, whom I found gathering some flowers in the garden, attended by her maid; who was also a Quaker. But when I addressed myself to her after my accustomed manner, with intention to engage her in some discourse which might introduce conversation on the foot of our former acquaintance; though she treated me with a courteous mein, yet, (young as she was) the gravity of her look and behaviour struck such an awe upon me, that I found myself not so much master of myself as to pursue any further converse with her. Wherefore, asking pardon for my boldness in having introduced myself into her private walks, I withdrew; not without some disorder (as I thought at least) of mind. We staid dinner, which was very handsome, and lacked nothing to recommend it to me, but the want of mirth and pleasant discourse, which we could neither have with them, nor by reason of them, with one another amongst ourselves; the weightiness that was upon their spirits and countenance keeping down the lightness that would have been up in us. We staid, notwithstanding, till the rest of the company took leave of them; and then, we also doing the same, returned, not greatly satisfied with our journey, nor knowing what in particular to find fault with."*

The name of William Penn belongs to history; as founder of the colony of Pennsylvania, and the personal friend of James II., and as having united in himself, the qualities of Legislator and Philanthropist. Happy would it have been for the Children of the Soil, had the practical lessons he taught, in his humane and enlightened treatment of the Aborigines of North America, been pursued by Lawgivers and Colonists in later days!

The early Friends were exposed to much persecution, by imprisonment, personal ill-usage, and the seizure of their property. Whether prelacy or puritanism prevailed, all who differed from those in power, were liable to oppression. During the Protectorate, there were at one time, no less than 4000 Friends imprisoned, for their religious opinions, some for assembling to worship God in the mode which they believed to be right; many for not taking off their hats before Magistrates; others for refusing to take the oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy, all swearing being by them considered as forbidden in our Saviour's command, "Swear not at all." But independently of this scruple against taking any oath, that of supremacy was peculiarly repugnant to their habit of viewing the Church exclusively under its spiritual aspect, the claim to exercise temporal authority in a spiritual community, seeming to them a profane and carnal intrusion. Some Friends suffered severely, for refusing to fight. Their patient endurance, and unflinching kindness and attention to one another, through personal risk and difficulty extorted from their persecutors, a similar testimony to that borne to the brotherly kindness displayed in the primitive church; "See how those Christians love one another." It is inconsistent with the declarations of George Fox, or with the line of conduct he pursued, to suppose, that in the first instance, he entertained the idea of drawing together any separate body of men under a denomination of their own: but spiritual, as were the views entertained by himself, and those, who were of one mind with him, high and holy as was the standard they desired to uprear; as the number of Friends increased, it became necessary, in order to effect unity of purpose, and co-operation in action, to establish amongst themselves, a system of Discipline, or Church Government, which, with slight alterations, extends in its ramifications at the present day throughout all parts of the world, where the Society exists.

---

* Thomas Ellwood's Life, p. 44, printed 1714.

It embraces a close and minute superintendence of their members, as to moral conduct and religious duties; integrity in monetary dealings; the education of their children; adherence to certain principles peculiar to themselves, but which they deem becoming fruits of the Christian character, and liberal care for the necessities of their own poor. Nor does the benevolence of Friends end here; they frequently, as a body, have presented addresses to Government, in behalf of the distressed and oppressed, and have raised considerable sums for their assistance. As individuals, they are active in promoting Schools, and in supporting the Bible Society. They were faithful adherents of Wilberforce and Clarkson in their lengthened efforts to abolish the slave-trade ; nor was it a novelty to Friends to espouse this cause;—George Fox himself wrote upon the subject of the kind and christian treatment of slaves, to Friends in Barbadoes, " to prepare them for freedom." John Woolman and Anthony Benezet laboured in America, to convince Friends of the sinfulness of holding slaves ; many joined in these endeavours with such success, that in the latter days of the Society, Friends universally emancipated their slaves, and a law amongst them was established, by which no Friend was permitted to be a slave-holder, on pain of forfeiting his Membership. In the last great struggle for the Abolition of Slavery itself, the voice of the Society of Friends arose, as that of one man, they spared neither expense nor exertion to effect the desired object. They united with Sir T. Fowell Buxton and those Christian Philanthropists, who had bound themselves neither to rest nor surrender, till every slave in the British dominions, had obtained in his liberty, the inalienable right of man.

Hospitals, workhouses, and prisons, share the attention of Friends ; and that not only in their own, but in other countries. William Allen, though pre-eminent, was but one of many, who have travelled and laboured for the good of mankind ; inculcating the benefits of education, of religious tolerance, and a more enlightened system of Penal Justice. Others have extended their missionary journeys to remote countries : within the last few years, we find one, (Daniel Wheeler) visiting the Polynesian islands and Australia, and another (James Backhouse) continuing for nearly seven years to labour among the settlers and convicts in that colony, besides a long tarriance in Southern Africa. But, whether those journeys are undertaken amongst their own Society, or more extensively pursued, no one is authorised to travel in the " work of the ministry," who has not been acknowledged by Friends as an approved preacher.

Even then, the individual is not permitted to travel, until the "concern" has been laid before the Monthly Meeting, to which he belongs. Should it meet with the approbation of the Meeting, a certificate is given to that effect, signed by the Clerk of the Meeting, and those of the members who incline to annex their names.

Should the journey be likely to prove a long one, or to occupy much space of time, "the Friend under concern," has again to bring the matter before the Quarterly Meeting, to which he belongs, and to obtain the concurrence of that larger body, consisting of many Monthly Meetings. If the projected journey be intended to extend beyond his own country, the matter is again laid before the Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders, and the countersign of the Clerk of that Assembly is needed to render the document complete.

In the present day proselytism enters little, if at all, into the views of Friends. Their labours are chiefly directed among their own body, to arousing the careless, consoling the afflicted, and stimulating the advanced Christian to press forward on his way. Towards those, not Friends, their errand is somewhat different. It is by no means their custom to introduce their peculiar tenets in their religious discourses, but in general terms to urge upon their hearers the dangers and temptations of the world, to recommend a life of holiness, and to set forth the great truths of Christianity as revealed in the Scriptures.

It was on such a mission that William Savery visited this Country. He travelled through Great Britain and Ireland, and some parts of the Continent. He was absent from his own country above two years. Elizabeth Gurney was not the only person, to whom his influence was signally beneficial. He possessed considerable natural powers, a cultivated mind, and a heart eminently devoted to the work in which he was engaged. In his own Journal William Savery mentions his visit to Norwich:—

"*Norwich, First-day, 4th of the month.* Attended their Meeting; some not members stepped in, and there were about two hundred under our name; very few middle aged or young persons who had a consistent appearance in their dress, indeed, I thought it the gayest Meeting of Friends I ever sat in, and was grieved to see it. I expected to pass the Meeting in silent suffering, but at length believed it most for my peace to express a little, and through gracious condescension was favoured to relieve my mind, and many were tendered. Had a meeting in the evening, in a large Meeting-house, in another part of the town: there seem to be but few upright standard-bearers left among the members in this place, yet they are not entirely removed. Attended the Public Meeting, and the house, though very large, could not contain the people by several hundreds, but considering their crowded situation, many being obliged to stand, they soon became settled, and through mercy it proved a remarkably open, satisfactory Meeting, ending in prayer and praise to the Author of every blessing. The marks of wealth and grandeur are too obvious in several families of Friends in this place, which made me sorrowful, yet I saw but little opening to relieve my mind; several of the younger branches, though they are enabled through divine grace, to see what the Truth leads to, yet it is uncertain whether, with all the alluring things of this world around them, they will choose the simple, safe path of self-denial."*

Elizabeth's sister, Richenda, thus describes this eventful day:—

On that day, we, seven sisters, sat as usual in a row, under the gallery at Meeting; I sat by Betsy. William Savery was there—we liked having Yearly Meeting Friends come to preach; it was a little change. Betsy was generally rather restless at meeting; and on this day, I remember her very smart boots were a great amusement to me; they were purple, laced with scarlet.

---

* William Savery's Journal, published by Gilpin, 1844, pp 27-8.

At last William Savery began to preach. His voice and manner were arresting, and we all liked the sound; her attention became fixed: at last I saw her begin to weep, and she became a good deal agitated. As soon as Meeting was over, I have a remembrance of her making her way to the men's side of the Meeting, and having found my father, she asked him if she might dine with William Savery at the Grove,* to which he soon consented, though rather surprised by the request; we went home as usual, and, for a wonder, we wished to go again in the afternoon. I have not the same clear remembrance of this Meeting; but the next scene that has fastened itself on my memory, is our return home in the carriage. Betsy sat in the middle, and astonished us all by the great feeling she showed. She wept most of the way home. The next morning, William Savery came to breakfast, and preached to our dear sister after breakfast, prophesying of the high and important calling she would be led into. What she went through in her own mind, I cannot say, but the results were most powerful, and most evident. From that day her love of pleasure and of the world seemed gone.

How deep the impression, made upon the mind of Elizabeth, her own journal pourtrays.

Sunday, February 4th, 1798.—This morning I went to Meeting, though but poorly, because I wished to hear an American Friend, named William Savery. Much passed there of a very interesting nature. I have had a faint light spread over my mind, at least I believe it is something of that kind, owing to having been much with, and heard much excellence from one who appears to me, a true Christian. It has caused me to feel a little religion. My imagination has been worked upon, and I fear all that I have felt will go off. I fear it now; though at first I was frightened, that a plain Quaker should have made so deep an impression on me; but how truly prejudiced in me to think, that because good came from a Quaker, I should be led away by enthusiasm and folly. But I hope I am now free from such fears. I wish the state of enthusiasm I am in may last, for to-day I have felt *that there is a God;* I have been devotional, and my mind has been led away from the follies that it is mostly wrapt up in. We had much serious conversation; in short, what he said and what I felt, was like a refreshing shower falling upon earth, that had been dried up for ages. It has not made me unhappy: I have felt ever since humble. I have longed for virtue. I hope to be truly virtuous; to let sophistry fly from my mind; not to be enthusiastic and foolish; but only to be so far religious as will lead to virtue. There seems nothing so little understood as religion.

---

* The Residence of her uncle, Joseph Gurney.

6th.—My mind has by degrees flown from religion. I rode to Norwich, and had a very serious ride there, but meeting, and being looked at, with apparent admiration, by some officers, brought on vanity; and I came home as full of the world, as I went to town full of heaven.

In hearing William Savery preach, he seemed to me to overflow with true religion, and to be humble, and yet a man of great abilities; and having been gay and disbelieving only a few years ago, makes him better acquainted with the heart of one in the same situation. If I were to grow like him, a preacher, I should be able to preach to the gay and unbelieving better than to any others, for I should feel more sympathy for them, and know their hearts better.

Sunday, 11th.—It is very different to this day week (a day never to be forgotten whilst memory lasts). I have been to Meeting this morning. To-day I have felt all my old irreligious feelings—my object shall be to search, try to do right, and if I am mistaken, it is not my fault; but the state I am now in makes it difficult to act. What little religion I have felt has been owing to my giving way quietly and humbly to my feelings; but the more I reason upon it, the more I get into a labyrinth of uncertainty, and my mind is so much inclined to both scepticism and enthusiasm, that if I argue and doubt, I shall be a total sceptic; if, on the contrary, I give way to it, and as it were, wait for religion, I may be led away. But I hope that will not be the case; at all events, religion, true and uncorrupted, is of all comforts the greatest; it is the first stimulus to virtue; it is a support under every affliction. I am sure it is better to be so in an enthusiastic degree, than not to be so at all, for it is a delightful enthusiasm.

15*th*.—My mind is in a whirl. In all probability I shall go to London. Many, many are the sensations I feel about it, numbers of things to expect. In the first place, leaving home, how truly I shall miss my best of friends, and all of them. (Meaning particularly her brothers and sisters). In the next place, I shall see William Savery most likely, and all those plain Quakers. I may be led away, beware! my feelings are far more risen at the thought of seeing him than all the playhouses and gaieties in the world. One will, I do not doubt, balance against the other; I must be careful not to be led away; I must not overdo myself. I dare say it will not be half so pleasant as the Earlham heartfelt gaieties in the Prince's time; I must be very careful not to get vain or silly, for I fear I shall. Be independent, and do not follow those I am with, more than I think right. Do not make dress a study, even in London. Read in the Bible, when I can; but if I see William Savery I shall not, I doubt, be over fond of gaieties.

16*th*.—We went to hear the band, which I am sorry for, as I cannot get courage to tell my father, I wish I had not gone; I will not go again without his knowing it beforehand.

CHAPTER III.

Visit to London, gaiety there—Return to Earlham—Decision between religion and the world—Letter from William Savery—Gradual development of opinion—Journey into Wales and the South of England—Intercourse with Friends—Colebrook Dale—Increasing tendency to Quakerism.

In this peculiar and awakened state of mind, Elizabeth, with the consent of Mr. Gurney, visited London, that she might become acquainted for herself with those amusements and fascinations that the world offers to its votaries; that she might have the opportunity of "trying all things," and choosing for herself that which appeared to her "to be good." Her father took her to London; and there, with an old and faithful attendant, left her for some weeks, under the protection and kind care of a relation. She was often interested and amused with the objects that were presented to her notice, but seldom satisfied or approving. The result was, that she returned home entirely decided:—the way of religion chosen, the way of the world rejected; and from that time, most steadily though gently, did she continue to advance in the path in which she believed it to be her duty henceforth to walk.

February 24th.—At last landed safely here (London); it is very pleasant in some things, very unpleasant in others. On Monday, I do not think it unlikely I shall go to the play. Tuesday, I expect to spend quietly with Dr. Lindoe and Mrs. Good. On Wednesday, I hope to see the Barclays, and to have a dance. On Thursday, I expect to be with Amelia Opie, and so on for different days.

25th.—Although I told William Savery my principles were not Friendly, yet I fear I should not like his knowing of my going to the play. I think such religion as his must attract an atheist; and if there were many such Quakers as he is, the Society would soon increase.

Monday, 26th.—I went to Drury Lane in the evening. I must own I was extremely disappointed; to be sure, the house is grand and dazzling, but I had no other feeling whilst there than that of wishing it over. I saw Banister, Mrs. Jordan, Miss Dechamp. I was not at all interested with the play, the music I did not much like; and the truth is, my imagination was so raised that it must have fallen, had the play been perfect.

Tuesday.—I went to the play at Covent Garden, I still continue not to like plays.

Wednesday, 28th.—We were out this morning; I felt proud, vain and silly. In the evening, we had a dance.

Thursday, March 1st.—I own I enter into the gay world reluctantly. I do not like plays. I think them so artificial that they are to me not interesting, and all seems so—so very far from pure virtue and nature. To-night I saw Hamlet and Bluebeard; I suppose that nothing on the stage can exceed it. There is acting, music, scenery to perfection, but I was glad when it was over; my hair was dressed and I felt like a monkey. London is not the place for heartfelt pleasure, so I must not expect to find it.

4th.—I feel uncharitably towards —— I said uncharitable things of them, and gave way to inclination, for I own I love scandal, though I highly disapprove of it; therefore it is the more commendable if I overcome it.

5th.—I took a lesson in dancing, and spent the day quietly.

7th.—I went to Meeting in the evening. I have not enough eloquence to describe it. William Savery's sermon was in the first part very affecting, it was from the Revelations; he explained his text beautifully and awfully, most awfully I felt it; he next described the sweets of religion, and the spirit of prayer. How he did describe it! He said, the deist, and those who did not feel devotion looked at nature, admired the thunder, the lightning and earthquakes, as curiosities; but they looked not up through them to nature's God. How well he hit the state I have been in, I trust I may not remain in it; his prayer was beautiful, I think I felt to pray with him.

17*th.*—May I never forget the impression William Savery has made on my mind, as much as I can say is, I thank God for having sent at least a glimmering of light through him into my heart, which I hope with care, and keeping it from the many draughts and winds of this life, may not be blown out, but become a large brilliant flame, that will direct me to that haven, where will be joy without a sorrow, and all will be comfort. I have faith, how much, to gain, not all the treasures in this world can equal that heavenly treasure. May I grow more and more virtuous, follow the path I should go in, and not fear to acknowledge the God whom I worship; I will try, and I do hope to do what is right. I now long to be in the quiet of Earlham, for there I may see how good I can be, and so I may here, for the greater cross the greater crown; but I there can reflect quietly and soberly on what has passed, there I hope to regulate my mind, which I know sadly wants it. May I never lose the little religion I now have; but if I cannot feel religion and devotion, I must not despair, for if I am truly warm and earnest in the cause, it will come one day. My idea is, that true humility and lowliness of heart is the first grand step towards true religion. I fear and tremble for myself, but I must humbly look to the Author of all that is good and great, and I may say humbly pray, that He will take me as a sheep strayed from His flock, and once more let me enter the fold of His glory. I feel there is a God and Immortality; happy, happy thought! May it never leave me, and if it should, may I remember I have felt that there is a God and Immortality.

26*th.*—This morning I went to Amelia Opie's and had a pleasant time. I called on Mrs. Siddons, who was not at home; then on Doctor Batty; then on Mrs. Twiss, who gave me some paint for the evening. I was painted a little, I had my hair dressed, and did look pretty for me. Mr. Opie, Amelia, and I went to the Opera concert. I own, I do love grand company. The Prince of Wales was there; and I must say, I felt more pleasure in looking at him, than in seeing the rest of the company, or hearing the music. I did nothing but admire his Royal Highness; but I had a very pleasant evening indeed.

27*th*.—I called with Mrs. H——, and Amelia, on Mrs. Inchbald. I like her vastly, she seems so clever and so interesting. I then went to Hampstead, and staid at our cousin Hoare's, until the 12th of April. I returned to Clapham. My uncle Barclay, with great begging, took us to the Opera. The house is dazzling, the company animating, the music hardly at all so, the dancing delightful. H—— came in in the middle of the Opera, I was charmed to see him, I was most merry, I just saw the Prince of Wales. Tuesday.—My dearest father came to London, we dined at the ———, and went to a rout in the evening. Friday.—I had a pleasant merry day, with Peter Pindar (Dr. Walcot). Monday.—I went with my father and the Barclays to Sir George Staunton's.

April 16*th*.—I arrived at home with my father, after paying a few more visits.

Thirty years afterwards she thus reviews this important period of life.

Dagenham, Seventh Month, 1828.—Here ended this important and interesting visit to London, where I learned much and had much to digest. I saw and entered various scenes of gaiety; many of our first public places; attended balls and other places of amusement. I saw many interesting characters in the world, some of considerable eminence in that day; I was also cast among a great variety of persons of different descriptions. I had the high advantage of attending several most interesting meetings of William Savery, and having at times his company, and that of a few other Friends. It was like the casting die in my life; however, I believe it was in the ordering of Providence for me, and that the lessons then learnt are to this day valuable to me. I consider one of the important results was, the conviction of these things being wrong, from seeing them and feeling their effects. I wholly gave up on my own ground, attending all public places of amusement, I saw they tend to promote evil; therefore even if I could attend them without being hurt myself, I felt in entering them, I lent my aid to promote that, which I was sure from what I saw, hurt others; led many from the paths of rectitude and chastity, and brought them into much sin; particularly those who had to act in plays, or sing in concerts. I felt the vanity and folly of what are called the pleasures of this life, of which the tendency is not to satisfy, but eventually to enervate and injure the heart and mind; those only are real pleasures which are of an innocent nature, and used as recreations, subjected to the cross of Christ. I was in my judgment much confirmed in the infinite importance of religion, as the only real stay, guide, help, and comfort in this life, and the only means of our having a hope of partaking of a better. My understanding was increasingly open to receive its truths; although the glad tidings of the gospel of Christ were little, very little, if at all understood by me, I was like the blind man; although I could hardly be said to have attained the state of seeing men as trees. I obtained in this expedition a valuable knowledge of human character, from the variety I met with; this I think was useful to me, though some were very dangerous associates for so young a person, and the way in which I was protected among them, is in my remembrance very striking; and leads me to acknowledge, that at this most critical period of my life, the tender mercy of my God was marvellously displayed towards me; and that His all-powerful, though to me then almost unseen and unknown hand, held me up and protected me. Can any one doubt, that it was His Spirit which manifested to me the evil in my own heart; as well as that which I perceived around me, leading me to abhor it, and to hunger and thirst after Himself and His righteousness, and that salvation which cometh by Christ.

Earlham, April 30th, 1798.—To-day the children brought me a letter from William Savery: I cannot well express what I felt at receiving it. I do not know the course I am to run, all is hid in mystery, but I try to do right in every thing. I feel he gives me a stimulant to virtue; but I fear by what I expressed in my letter, he suspects that I am turning plain Quaker. I hate that he should estimate me falsely. I must remember that on the foundation of the doctrine I believe we agree. I must look to One higher than he; and if I feel my own mind satisfied I need not fear. Look up to true religion as the very first of blessings, cherish it, nourish, and let it flourish and bloom in my heart; it wants taking care of, it is difficult to obtain. I must not despair or grow spectical, if I do not always feel religious. I have felt God as it were, and I must seek to find Him again.

The letter referred to is as follows:—

"13*th of Fourth Month,* 1798.

"DEAR FRIEND,

"As I left thee unwell, and without having it in my power to take thee affectionately by the hand, as I was much inclined to do; it gave me great pleasure to receive thy kind letter, which brings no complaint of thy present want of health; for, I assure thee, I feel interested in thy welfare and happiness every way. My attachment has not been more cordial or agreeable to any young Friend in England, and my heart leaped with joy to find thou art willing to acknowledge a state of hunger and thirst after righteousness, which if thou cherish and dwell in, thou never need to doubt, my dear friend, will eventually be crowned with the enjoyment of the heavenly promise, "thou shalt be filled." Thou art favoured with amiable and benevolent dispositions, which I hope thou hast wisely determined shall not be eclipsed by a conformity to the god of this world; nor enslaved by its rudiments and maxims, its philosophy and vain deceit, but rather with a holy magnanimity, regardless of the world's dread laugh, thou wilt resolve to implore the Omnipotent hand that formed thee for Glory, Immortality, and Eternal Life, to finish the glorious work He has begun, by creating thee anew in Christ Jesus unto every good word and work; bringing thee under the dominion of His own power and spirit, the fruit of which is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.

"I know, my dear, thou hast and will have many temptations to combat with; thou wilt, doubtless, be frequently importuned to continue with thy gay acquaintance in pursuit of that unsubstantial and false glare of happiness, which the world in too bewitching and deceitful colours holds out to the poor young, unwary traveller, which if he be ensnared with, most certainly ends in blinding the intellectual eye, from discerning the uncontaminated source of soul-felt pleasure, resulting from a humble heart at peace with its God, its neighbour, and itself. Thou asks my advice, my dear friend, and without any premeditation when I sat down, I find I have been attempting it; but it is very evident, thou art under the especial care of an infinitely better Instructor, who has already uttered his soft and heavenly voice to teach thee that the first step towards religion is true humility; because, in that state only we can feel the need we have of an arm stronger than human to lean upon, to lead us out of, and keep us from polluting things, which hinder our access to, and confidence in that boundless source of purity, love, and mercy; who amidst all the vicissitudes of time is disposed to be our invincible Shepherd, Guardian, and Friend, in whom we may trust and never be afraid; but this blessed confidence is not, cannot be enjoyed by the gay, the giddy, proud, or abandoned votaries of this world.

"It is the peculiar privilege of those, who are sincerely endeavouring to wash their hands in innocency, that they may compass the altar of God availingly. I have experienced what it is to be under the imperious and slavish dominion of my own uncontrolled passions; and I know that such a state is abundantly mixed with the wormwood and the gall, and I have been, through adorable mercy, convinced there is an infinitely more happy one to be attained, even in this life; an enjoyment, under the perfect law of liberty, of that serene state of mind wherein there is no condemnation, as Paul speaks, the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus setting the soul free from the law of sin and death. I do not pretend, my dear friend, to boast myself as having attained such an uninterrupted state, yet the transient foretaste which we partake of, in proportion to our obedience to revealed duty, is enough to inspire the soul of every Christian soldier, so to run through God's mercy and grace, that we may obtain the full and complete enjoyment of it. There are many formal professors of religion, who think to obtain peace with God, by a critical exactness and even rigid austerity in outward observances, and outside formalities, as well as many who from constitution or habit are always exhibiting the dark and gloomy side of religion, not having, in my humble opinion, their minds sufficiently expanded by just conceptions of the adorable love and mercy of God; and both of these spread a discouraging report of the good land, or of the way which our Heavenly Father has appointed for us to obtain possession of it. I speak only my own experience, dear Elizabeth, when I say, that whenever I have found my way more than usually strewn with thorns, I have generally discovered on a deep scrutiny of my heart, it has been the fruit of some open or secret departure from the paths of obedience and virtue, so that I am confirmed it is in our own ways we are corrected; but the ways of the Lord are ways of pleasantness, and all His paths peace. I know very well that the most virtuous, being children of frail humanity, and this world not designed to be the place of their undisturbed rest, but a school of discipline to prepare them for a better, are subject to afflictions as well as others; still there is this difference in the midst of them all, that while the votary of this world is overwhelmed with murmuring and repining, and agitated with sorrow which worketh death, under the afflictive dispensations, that all, more or less, in the wisdom of Providence for our good must pass through in this life; the humble Christian, believing that even afflictions from His sovereign hand are mercies in disguise, and that all things shall work eventually for good to them that love and fear Him, are strengthened through the Lord's love and mercy to say, "The cup that my Heavenly Father hath blessed, shall I not drink it?" "for our light affliction which is but for a moment worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen, for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal." On the other hand, the temporal enjoyments of this life being sanctified to us by the hand that gave them, and the world used without abusing it, the peace, comfort, and rational enjoyment of them is doubly tasted by the religious and grateful soul. My dear child, my heart is full towards thee, I have written a great deal more than I expected; but I fain would take thee by the hand, if I were qualified so to do, and ascend, as our Heavenly Father may enable us together, step by step, up that ladder, which reaches from earth to heaven, but, alas! my weakness is such, I can only recommend both myself and thee to that good hand, that is able to do more abundantly for us than we can either ask or think; and bid thee, for the present, in much christian affection, farewell.

"William Savery."

April 21st.—I am so glad I do not feel Earlham at all dull, after the bustle of London; on the contrary, a better relish for the sweet innocence and beauties of Nature. I hope I may say, I do look "through Nature up to Nature's God." I go every day to see poor Bob, (a servant in a decline, living at a cottage in the Park,) who I think will not live. I once talked to him about his dying, and asked him if he would like me to read to him in the Testament. I told him, I felt such faith in the blessings of Immortality, that I pitied not his state; it was an odd speech to make to a dying man. I hope to be able to comfort him in his dying hours. I gave some things to some poor people to-day; but it is not there that I am particularly virtuous, as I only am following my natural disposition. I should be far more so, if I never spoke against any person, which I do too often. I think I am improved since I was last at home; my mind is not so fly-away. I hope it never will be so again. We are all governed by our feelings; now the reason why religion is far more likely to keep you in the path of virtue, than any theoretical plan is, that you feel it, and your heart is wrapt up in it; it acts as a furnace on your character, it refines it, it purifies it; whereas principles of your own making are without kindling to make the fire hot enough to answer its purpose. I think a dream I have had so odd, I will write it down.

Before I mention my dream, I will give an account of my state of mind, from the time I was fourteen years old. I had very sceptical or deistical principles. I seldom, or never thought of religion, and altogether I was a negatively good character, having naturally good dispositions, I had not much to combat with ; I gave way freely to the weakness of youth. I was flirting, idle, rather proud and vain, till the time I was seventeen, I found I wanted a better, a greater stimulus to virtue, than I had, as I was wrapt up in trifles. I felt my mind capable of better things ; but I could not exert it, till several of my friends, without knowing my state, wished I would read books on Christianity ; but I said till I felt the want of religion myself, I would not read books of that kind ; but if ever I did, would judge clearly for myself, by reading the New Testament, and when I had seen for myself, I would then see what others said. About this time, I believe, I never missed a week or a few nights without dreaming, I was nearly being washed away by the sea, sometimes in one way, sometimes in another ; and I felt all the terror of being drowned, or hope of being saved ; at last I dreamt it so often, that I told many of the family what a strange dream I had, and how near I was being lost. After I had gone on in this way for some months, William Savery came to Norwich. I had begun to read the Testament with reflections of my own, and he suddenly, as it were, opened my eyes to see religion ; but again they almost closed. I went on dreaming the dream. The day when I felt I had really and truly got true and real faith, that night I dreamed the sea was coming as usual to wash me away, but I was beyond its reach ; beyond its powers to wash me away ; since that night I do not remember having dreamed that dream. Odd ! It did not strike me at the time so odd ; but now it does. All I can say is, I admire it, I am glad I have had it, and I have a sort of faith in it ; it ought, I think, to make my faith steady, it may be the work of chance, but I do not think it is, for it is so odd not having dreamed it since. What a blessed thought to think it comes from heaven ! May I be made capable of acting as I ought to act ; not being drowned in the ocean of the world, but permitted to mount above its waves, and remain a steady and faithful servant to the God whom I worship. I may take this dream in what light I like, but I must be careful of superstition; as many, many are the minds that are led away by it. Believe only in what I can comprehend or feel; don't, don't be led away by enthusiasm; but I don't fear. I feel myself under the protection of One, who alone is able to guide me to the path in which I ought to go.

29th.—The human mind is so apt to fly from one extreme to another; and why is not mine like others? I certainly seem to be on the road to a degree of enthusiasm, but I own myself at a loss how to act. If I act as they would wish me, I should not humbly give way to the feelings of religion; I should dwell on philosophy and depend more on my own reason than any thing else. On the contrary, if I give way to the religious feelings to which I am inclined, (and I own I believe much in inspiration), I feel confident, that I should find true humility and humble waiting on the Almighty the only way of feeling that inward sense of the beauties, and of the comforts of religion; it spreads a sweet veil over the evils of life; it is to me the first of feelings; that state of devotion, that absolutely makes you weep, is most fine! I own my dream rather leads me to believe in, and try to follow the path I would go in. But I should think my wisest plan of conduct would be to warmly encourage my feelings of devotion, and to keep as nearly as I can to what I think right, and the doctrines of the Testament; not at present to make sects the subject of my meditations, but to do as I think right, and not alter my opinions from conformity, to any one gay or plain.

May 8th.—This morning being alone, I think it a good opportunity to look into myself to see my present state, and to regulate myself. At this time the first object of my mind is religion. It is the most constant subject of my thoughts and of my feelings; I am not yet on what I call a steady foundation. The next feeling that at this present fills my heart, is benevolence and affection to many, but great want of charity, want of humility, want of activity; my inclinations lead me, I hope, to virtue; my passions are, I hope, in a pretty good state; I want to set myself in good order, for much time is lost and many evils committed by not having some regular plan of conduct; I make these rules for myself:—

First,—Never lose any time; I do not think that lost which is spent in amusement or recreation, some time every day; but always be in the habit of being employed.

Second,—Never err the least in truth.

Third,—Never say an ill thing of a person, when I can say a good thing of them; not only speak charitably, but feel so.

Fourth,—Never be irritable nor unkind to any body.

Fifth,—Never indulge myself in luxuries that are not necessary.

Sixth,—Do all things with consideration, and when my path to act right is most difficult, feel confidence in that power that alone is able to assist me, and exert my own powers as far as they go.

19*th*.—Altogether I think I have had a satisfactory day. I had a good lesson of French this morning, and read much in Epictetus. Saw poor Bob, and enjoyed the sweet beauties of nature, which now shine forth; each day some new beauty arrives. I love the beauty of the country, it does the mind good. I love it more than I used to do. I love retirement and quiet much more since my journey to London. How little I thought six months ago, I should be so much altered; I am since then, I hope, altered much for the better. My heart may rise in thankfulness to that omnipotent power, that has allowed my eyes to be opened in some measure to see the light of truth, and to feel the comfort of religion. I hope to be capable of giving up my all, if it be required of me, to serve the Almighty with my whole heart.

21*st*.—To-day is my birth-day. I am eighteen years old! How many things have happened to me since I was fourteen; the last year has been the happiest I have experienced for some time.

23*rd*.—I have just been reading a letter from my father, in which he makes me the offer of going to London, what a temptation! but I believe it to be much better for me to be where I am, quietly and soberly to keep a proper medium of feelings, and not to be extravagant any way.

24*th*.—I wrote to my father this morning. I must be most careful not to be led by others, for I know at this time I have so great a liking for plain Friends; that my affections being so much engaged, my mind may be so also by them. I hope as I now find myself in so wavering a state, that I may judge without prejudice of Barclay's Apology.

27*th*.—I must be careful of allowing false scruples to enter my mind. I have not yet been long enough a religionist to be a sectarian. I hope by degrees to obtain true faith; but I expect I shall lose what I gain, if I am led to actions I may repent of; remember and never forget my own enthusiastic feeling nature. It requires caution and extreme prudence to go on as I should do. In the afternoon I went to St. Peters, and heard a good sermon. The common people seemed very much occupied, and wrapt up in the service, which I was pleased to see; afterwards I went to the cathedral, then I came home and read to the Normans and little Castleton.

29*th*.—I feel weak in mind and body. If I go on approving revealed religion, I must be extremely careful of taking the idle fancies of the brain, for anything so far superior. I believe, many mistake mere meteors for that heavenly light, which few receive. Many may have it in a degree, but I should suppose few have it, so as to teach others with authority.

June 1*st*.—I have been great part of this morning with poor Bob, who seems now dying. I read a long chapter in the Testament to him, the one upon death, and I sat with him for some time afterwards. Poor fellow! I never saw death, or any of its symptoms before; sad to see, it truly is; I said a few words to him, and expressed to him how happy we should be in expectation of immortality, and everlasting bliss. Father of mercies, wilt Thou bless him, and take him unto Thee? Though my mind is flat this morning, and not favoured with Thy Spirit in devotion; yet I exert what I have, and hope it will prove acceptable in Thy sight. Almighty God, Thy will be done and not ours. May I always be resigned to what Thou hast ordered for me; I humbly thank Thee, for allowing my eyes to be opened, so as even to feel faith, hope and love towards Thee. First and last of everything infinite, and not to be comprehended except by Thy Spirit which Thou allowest to enlighten our hearts.

12th.—This evening I have got myself rather into a scrape; I have been helping them to beg my father for us to go to the Guild-dinner, and I don't know whether it was quite what I approve of, or think good for myself; but I shall consider, and do not intend to go, if I disapprove of it. How strange and odd! I really think I shall turn plain Friend; all I say is, search deeply; do nothing rashly, and I then hope to do right; they all, I think, now see it—keep up to the duties I feel in my heart, let the path be ever so difficult; err not at all if I can avoid it, be humble and constant. I do not like to appear a character I am not certain of being. For a few days past, I have at times felt much religion for *me;* humility and comfort belong to it. I often think very seriously about myself. A few months ago, if I had seen any one act, as I now do, I should have thought him a fool; but the strongest proof I can have that I am acting right at the present time is, that I am certainly a better, and I think a happier character. But I often doubt myself, when I consider my enthusiastic and changeable feelings. Religion is no common enthusiasm, because it is pure, it is a constant friend, protector, supporter, and guardian; it is what we cannot do well without in this world; what can prove its excellence so much as its producing virtue and happiness? How much more solid a character I am, since I first got hold of religion! I would not part with what I have for anything; it is a faith that never will leave my mind, I hope most earnestly. I do not believe it will, but I desire always to be a strictly religious character.

13th.—I have some thoughts of by degrees increasing my plan for Sunday evening; and of having several poor children, at least, to read in the Testament and religious books for an hour. I have begun with Billy; but I hope to continue and increase one by one. I should think it a good plan; but I must not even begin that hastily. It might increase morality among the lower classes, if the Scriptures were oftener and better read to them. I believe I cannot exert myself too much, there is nothing gives me such satisfaction as instructing the lower classes of people.

24*th*.—I persevered in going to Meeting this afternoon. Coming home, I saw a scene that indeed interested me, my father jumping into the water at the New Mills, after a poor boy whom I thought drowned; my feelings were great indeed, both for my father and the boy. I believe I should have leapt in afterwards, if my father had gone out of sight; he did it delightfully, with such activity and spirit, it was charming to see him. Poor little boy! I took him as soon as he was out of the water; it agitated me extremely.

July 9*th*.—How little is the mind capable of really feeling that we are all in the presence of God, who overlooks every action. Should we not tremble when we think of it? How many faults do we commit? It is impossible, without the assistance of His almighty power, to comprehend it. We could never be wicked, while we felt ourselves in the presence of the Almighty. Virtue alone can make this thought a happy one.

20*th*.—I suppose we shall go off to-morrow on our journey. We expect the Opies and Bartlett Gurney to dinner. It is my wish to do my lesson with Le Sage, and the first thing afterwards attend to my father; read to Mrs. Norman; see nurse Norman; walk to Colney about Billy; came home, set my things in the greatest order. Evening.—I have been confused by the thoughts of going and company. How much do I fear for myself this journey.

During the summer, Mr. Gurney, with his seven daughters, took a journey into Wales and the south of England. Elizabeth delighted in nature, and dwelt with pleasure on the beautiful scenery they passed through; but to the works of man, however imposing, she was comparatively indifferent. She visited cathedral cities; she saw scenes of high historic interest; castles, whose walls could reveal dark tales of bye-gone days;

but she scarcely mentions them, and if she notices them at all, it is but to draw some moral inference. In visiting the Dock-yards, at Plymouth, and beholding one of the noblest instances of man's power and skill, a first-rate man-of-war, in perfect order, and equipped for sea, she considers the effects of war, and its influences on the human race. But by far the greatest interest, afforded her by this journey, was the prospect of seeing different Friends, and becoming better acquainted with them and their principles. The travellers paid a visit to Colebrook Dale, the residence of the well-known Christian philanthropist, Richard Reynolds, there she was left for some days, with her cousin, Priscilla Hannah Gurney. This lady was cousin to the Gurneys of Earlham, by both their father and mother, her father being Joseph Gurney, and her mother Christiana Barclay. She was exactly the person to attract the young; she possessed singular beauty and elegance of manner, a figure small, but perfect, her eyes of great brilliancy and expression. She was of the old school, and tinged with its forms and dignities; her costume partook of this, and her long retention of the black hood, gave much character to her appearance. She early renounced the world and its fascinations, left Bath, where her mother and sister Christiana Gurney resided, became eventually a minister among friends, and found a congenial retreat for many years at Colebrook Dale. The influence of this visit upon Elizabeth was very powerful. A place more likely to interest her, persons more suited to her state of mind, could not have been, than Colebrook Dale, and the residents there. Richard Reynolds, at that time advanced in years, was a patriarch among his family, his friends, and dependents. He devoted a large proportion of a noble fortune, acquired by honourable industry, to objects of benevolence. His extensive iron-works were carried on with careful attention to the moral good of those employed in them.

Several valuable Friends resided at Colebrook Dale, connected with each other in business, or by marriage, or the stronger bond of similarity of taste and principle. They were a happy, united band, Christian love prevailing among themselves, and towards others. It is sad to think among the changes of life, how many of this pleasant community have passed away.

Farnham, July 26th.—To night I am much tired, quite fagged, body and mind, and the text comes strongly before me, "Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted," for though I feel weak in body, I have truly support in mind. God is a merciful Father, and when His children (though evil like me) mourn, He will comfort them, and preserve them, if they will exert their own powers also, to serve Him in spirit and in truth. How often I fail! He is never-failing, no, never! He makes the sun to rise on the just and on the unjust, and we acknowledge not His blessings, but lament over the few clouds that shade its brightness: and sometimes murmur at the Lord that made us. Weak mortals! and I am weak indeed. But I feel I have to deal with a merciful Father.

Weymouth, 29th.—We dined here, and after dinner went on the sea. I always feel rather afraid when there, for I consider that if the least accident were to happen, I should be drowned; and I do not know if it be right only for pleasure to run the risk of one's life. I always feel doubtful of ever seeing land again; but I believe it to be partly unwise cowardice; if duty led me to it, I do not think I should fear. Some minds, by nature, are more cowards than others, and require more faith to overcome it. This evening I am sorry to say, I feel a hankering after the world and its gaieties: but what real satisfaction is there in being admired? I am uncertain about going to the Rooms to-morrow. I should not object, I think, if no expense follow it; but if I can keep away I will do so; I have been considering, and believe this subject requires real thought. I hear there is to be a ball, and I don't doubt we may go: if I go, I shall enter the world and fall very likely into some of its snares. Shall I feel satisfied in going, or most satisfied in staying at home? I believe in staying at home. The worst of all will be, I shall have to contradict the will of all the others, and most likely to disappoint my father by not going; there is the rub, if I don't go perhaps he will not let the others go. I think I shall leave it on these grounds; if I can stay at home in any way, do—but if I cannot without vexing my father I must go, and try not to be hurt by it.

Dawlish, August 3rd.—This morning Kitty came in for us to read the Testament together, which I enjoyed: I read my favourite chapter, the 15th of Corinthians, to them. Oh! how earnestly I hope that we may all know what truth is, and follow its dictates. I still continue my belief that I shall turn plain Quaker. I used to think, and do now, how very little dress matters; but I find it almost impossible to keep up to the principles of Friends without altering my dress and speech. I felt it the other day at Weymouth. If I had been plain, I should not have been tempted to have gone to the play, which at all events I would not do; plainness appears to be a sort of protection to the principles of Christianity in the present state of the world. I have just received a letter from Anna Savery, and have been answering it, and have written rather a religious letter, which I mean to show them, though it is to me a cross, as I say in it I think I am a Quaker at heart. I hope it will not hurt them; but it is better to be on clear grounds with my best friends, upon that which so nearly interests me. I know it hurts Rachel and John the most. Rachel has the seeds of Quakerism in her heart, that if cultivated, would grow indeed, I have no doubt. I should never be surprised to see us all Quakers.

4th.—I have been having such a morning with Chrissy Gurney, I do really love her; she makes me more of a Quaker than any one I ever was with. She certainly is the most interesting woman I ever met, quite one after my own heart; she is to me indescribable. It is odd to me, and I believe it is to herself, that she is not a Quaker. But she is good without it, not but what I think she would be happier with it. I have very little doubt I shall gain from her; I quite feel leaving this place.

Plymouth Dock, 8th.—After a good night, as soon as breakfast was over, we went to see the ropes made at the Docks, which was a most curious sight. How thankful I should be, that for all my constant erring from the path of truth, I am yet sometimes allowed to feel I have an Arm to lean upon, superior to human, that will support me in time of trouble. After leaving the Dock-yards, we went on board a ferry-boat, and I felt rather afraid, to my shame. We then went to see a Review, which I feel rather uncertain if it were right for me to go to, as I so highly disapprove of war; but I believe whilst I appear as as other people, I must act as they do unless with the greatest difficulty. I do not alter from conformity, but from conviction. Afterwards we went to Lord Mount Edgecumbe's, a very fine place, but I was not in the mind for it. Am I right or not? They have just been to say, an officer has come for us to hear a very famous Marine Band; and I do not go, because I have some idea it is wrong, even to give countenance to a thing that inflames men's minds to destroy each other; it is truly giving encouragement, as far as lies in my power, to what I most highly disapprove, therefore I think I am right to stay at home. I will now go on with an account of the day. We went on board a man-of-war with Judd (their maid) and the men-servants; it was a fine but melancholy sight. I may gain some information by it, but it is not what I quite approve of, the same as the band; my heart feels most anxious this night that I may go right, for strait and narrow is the path that leadeth to eternal life, and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction. I must remark, before finishing this journal, that I feel much satisfaction attending my not going to the Review, a thing my heart is so much set upon as military music; as soon as I determined, in my own mind, to give it up, inclination vanished, and now would lead me to stay at home. If I look at it, my path is clearer than I think; for it ought to give me comfort and hope, that in so small a thing

I feel so much satisfaction it should help me forward in my journey to that haven, where alone comfort is to be found.

Ivy Bridge, 9th.—The first thing we undertook this morning was to see the Dock-yards, which is a sight too astonishing to describe. But after all the art, expense and trouble, that men put themselves to, what do they gain, but the destruction of their fellow-creatures? After that we went by water to Plymouth, and saw many Friends; but one very plain, who was agreeable to us all, even interesting. As I left Plymouth, my mind felt deeply hurt on account of the poor sailors and women, of whom I have seen a sad number, and longed to do them good, to try one day to make them sensible of the evil state they appear to be in. Just at that time, I read or thought of that passage in the Testament, where it says, we are to look upon all men as greater than ourselves. Christ truly taught humility, and I reflected that, in all probability, if I had had the same temptations, I should have been equally wicked; for I am sorry, indeed, to say, I fear I mostly give way to temptation, when it falls in my way. Ah! much, much have I to do, much to strive for, before I shall be able to feel my house is built upon a rock. I know how weak is its present foundation; but this night my mind is cheered by the brightening light of religion.

Clifton, 15th.—This morning I have seen much beautiful country about Clifton. I think it very likely we shall go to the Welch Half-Yearly meeting, where I expect we shall meet most of the Colebrook Dale Friends, whom I quite long to see. We have been a pleasant excursion this afternoon, to a Mr. Harford's; I had an interesting drive home, and thought about serious subjects. I often think of home with a longing heart, to set off once more quietly in my career.

Ross, 16th.—We have travelled far to-day; I set out rather thinking I should have Mrs. B——'s company, which I had, and enjoyed at times much; experience teacheth knowledge. I think her in all respects not sufficiently practical, but too theoretical. I don't like her theories, she appears to me to think too highly of bringing the things of this world (that do not in my opinion lead to happiness) to perfection. If too much attended to, I think it loss of time; and of course I believe, though she has much religion, that this prevents her enjoying it as much as she would otherwise do; for, those who depend too much on this world, are apt not to depend sufficiently on the one to come. Some sweet and beautiful scenes we saw from Gloucester to Ross, by moonlight, which I enjoyed.

Abergavenny, 18*th*.—We went one stage before breakfast from Usk to Pontypool; as soon as we got there, we met two plain Friends, they both preached; my mind had some devotional feelings, which I felt a blessing. I remained and dined with them, and a little of that peculiar love, I feel towards plain Friends sprung up in my heart for them. Before the afternoon Meeting, I went with Mrs. B——— to call on Lady M———. I own I felt very uncomfortable, I felt as if I were too much a Friend with Friends, and too worldly with other people. I then went to Meeting and had a very serious reflecting time. I thought I should be acting a better part to say thee instead of you, to other people when I could, for I felt myself to-day, one minute saying thee, the next you; it appeared hypocritical. I had an argument in my own mind, which I will try to remember; I first thought how there could be any difference, in Christian virtue in saying you or thee to people. I considered there were certainly some advantages attending it; the first, that of weaning the heart from this world, by acting in some little things differently from it. But I then thought, is it not better to be remarkable for excellence of conduct, than for such little peculiarities? I find that in a perfect state, such things would not signify, but we are in an imperfect state; and our virtue is hard to maintain, without some fortress to support it; we must combat with imperfection, and at times be obliged to make great things of little things, and use them as arms to defend us from the many wiles and snares of the world.

Landaly, 21*st*.—A gentleman dined with us, to whom I did not attend, till I discovered he was Lord ———. Oh pride, how it does creep in upon me!

Aberystwith, 23*rd*.—Is dancing wrong? I have just been dancing; I think there are many dangers attending it, it may lead to vanity and other things. But I think, in a family party, and in an innocent way, it may be of use by the bodily exercise; it animates the spirits, and produces good effects. I think dancing and music the first pleasures in life. The more the pleasures of life are given up, the less we love the world, and our hearts will be set upon better things; not but that we are allowed, I believe, to enjoy the blessings Heaven has sent us. We have power of mind sufficient to distinguish the good from the bad; for under the cloak of pleasure, infinite evils are carried on. The danger of dancing, I find is throwing me off my centre; at times when dancing, I know that I have not reason left, but that I do things which in calm moments I must repent of. I went and bathed, which required much exertion of courage. After dinner we went to the Devil's Bridge. I was much pleased with the beautiful scenery; but as we were climbing down the rocks, which appeared almost perpendicular over the fall of water, I was taken with the most painful sensation of fear, and dared not go another step, but sat down and thought I should have fainted; if I had, I must have fallen to the bottom. After we arrived safely home to a sort of little inn, where we slept, we had a very happy evening; for we were wet, and were obliged to put on our dressing gowns, and sit over a fine turf fire, in the public-house; singing, and being sung to, by the interesting Welsh inhabitants.

Caernarvon, 27th.—After a good breakfast, we set off on our journey. The first few miles I shall find very difficult to describe, for such a scene I had not an idea of; all surrounded with rocky mountains, lost in the clouds as they passed over them. Sometimes we were on the edge of a precipice, sometimes on the borders of a river, where the road was cut out of the rock, and high mountains on each side, now and then the wild goats straying over them. We were obliged to walk part of the way, which was trying to me, as I had the tooth-ache. Since I have been here, I have had a Welsh harper, which I was not quite sure was right, as it was giving, or at least causing money to be given, that might have been spent much better.

28*th.*—My mind is in an uncomfortable state this morning; for I am astonished to find I have felt a scruple at music, at least I could not otherwise account for my feelings; but my mind is rather uneasy after I have been spending time in it. These cannot be sensations of my own making, or a contrivance of my own forming, for I have such happiness when I overcome my worldly self; and when I give way to it, am uneasy; not but what I think feelings are sometimes dangerous to give way to; but how odd, yet how true, that much of human reason must be given up. I don't know what to think of it, but I must act somehow, and in some way; yet do nothing rashly or hastily, but try to humiliate myself to true religion; and endeavour to look to God who alone can teach me and lead me right; have faith, hope, and if little things are to follow to protect greater ones, I must, yes, I must do it. I feel certainly happier in being a Quaker, but my reason contradicts it. Now my fears are these, lately I have had Quakerism placed before me in a very interesting and delightful light; and is it unlikely that inclination may put on the appearance of duty? Now my inclination may, before long, lead me some other way; that is a sad foundation to build the fortress upon which must defend me through life; but I think I am wrong in one thing, though it is right to doubt myself; yet do I not make myself more uneasy, for fear I should be a ridiculous object to the world, and some of my dear friends. I believe I can give myself a little advice, not to promote anything leading to unquakerism; but try if it make me happy or not, and then take greater steps if I like.

Colebrook Dale, 31*st*.—Cousin Priscilla's room. This evening I am at Colebrook Dale, the place I have so much wished to be at. I had rather a comfortable drive here from Shrewsbury; read in the Testament, and got by heart one or two verses. I felt it a great pleasure to see cousin Priscilla; but my heart has not been enlarged towards this sweet set. We have taken a long walk this afternoon. It brings me into a sweet state, being with plain Friends like these, a sort of humility. I expect to be here some days, which I delight in. I feel this evening in a calm, and rather religious state of mind. I am blessed a little to feel the existence of my Father who is in heaven; and I have some hope I may one day be confined in the sheep-fold, and not stray from the flock. I hope I shall, and I may; for thanks be to the Almighty, He has formed us for eternal glory, if we will be sufficiently melted down to be moulded into the right form.

September 2nd.—I cannot easily describe that which I would, for I know not in my own mind what my feelings exactly are. This morning when breakfast was over, I had some talk with Priscilla, and then we sat down to read the account of a young woman of the name of Rathbone, to me striking and interesting; how well she was assured of Immortality, how clearly did she see her path to Heaven! Happy, happy woman; blessed, ah blessed is thy fate! may we also be permitted to accompany thee to glory, immortality and eternal life, with our God and our Saviour; shall I ever be sensible of deserving immortal glory? too great a blessing I fear for me and my weak self ever to obtain. For hard is the task and narrow is the road that leadeth thereunto. We then went to Meeting, my mind was clouded, but now and then a small ray enlightened it. Between the two Meetings, I read again with cousin Priscilla, and all my sisters, that account of the young woman. Hard is the task of dedicating the heart unto God; I fear, yet I hope I may with His assistance one day so fortify it, as to become a defender of truth and religion. After the afternoon Meeting, we drank tea at Deborah Darby's; I felt much love towards her, and her friend Appleby particularly; I felt gratified when she said William Savery had mentioned me to her, and that Rebecca Young, who was out, was sorry she could not see me; there is little, ah little indeed in me! When we came home this evening, my father took me aside and gave me some good advice; to beware of passion and enthusiasm, which I hope I do most earnestly pray I may be, for truly they are snares of the enemy.

3rd.—Got up late. Heard Deborah Darby was here, and went down; during breakfast, I felt my heart beat much; as soon as it was over, Deborah Darby preached in a deep, clear, and striking manner. First, she said, God would visit us all, and did visit us, that God was a father to the fatherless, and a Mother to the motherless; my mind felt deeply oppressed by it. She then addressed me in particular; I do not remember her words, but she expressed, first, I was, as I am, sick of the world; and looked higher (and I believe I do,) and that I was to be dedicated to my God, and should have peace in this world, and glory everlasting in the world to come. Could more satisfaction be given? let me be thankful, I really cried, and I think never felt such inward encouragement. Let me be a worthy servant of my Master who is in heaven. May I, Oh! may I do right. My father has given me leave to stay till Fourth-day morning, kind he truly is. He spoke to me again this morning. I feel myself highly favoured is all I can say, and may my heart bow before its Maker now and evermore! After they all went, I came and wrote my journal, and sat with cousin Priscilla, and we read till dinner. After that we sat again together with the children, and went on with some letters interesting to me, from that young woman to Richard Reynolds. This afternoon I was at the Darbys. I have felt as it were tinctured with the goodness of those I have been with; but little I own. Oh my inward temptations, shall I ever overcome you! Priscilla Gurney I feel my constant little friend, dearly indeed do I love her.

4th.—After tea, we went to the Darbys, accompanied by my dear friend Richard Reynolds, and still dearer Priscilla Gurney. We had spent a pleasant evening, when my heart began to feel itself silenced before God, and without looking at others, I found myself under the shadow of His wing, and I soon discovered that the rest were in the same state: I was persuaded that it must be that which I felt. After sitting a time in awful silence, Rebecca Young spoke most beautifully, she touched my heart, and I felt melted and bowed before my Creator. Deborah Darby then spoke; what she said was excellent, she addressed part of it to me; I only fear she says too much of what I am to be. A light to the blind; speech to the dumb; and feet to the lame; can it be? She seems as if she thought I was to be a minister of Christ. Can I ever be one? If I am obedient, I believe, I shall.

Merridon, 5th.—I rose this morning about five o'clock, I did not feel so much as I expected leaving Colebrook Dale. There is a mountain for me to climb over, there is sacrifice for me to make; before I am favoured with faith, virtue, and assurance of immortality. I feel it would appear so like conformity to the opinions of others, to alter just after being with these Friends, but I think that it is a time to do so, for strength and courage have been given me. This day I have said thee instead of you; but still go on soberly and with consideration.

Coventry, 6*th*.—I rose in good time to write to Priscilla Gurney, and felt in a state of darkness and discouragement about my language, but I am happy to say my mind again feels clear. I dare not draw back. I hope to continue in the habit with spirit, and if by yesterday week I have kept up to it, and then feel discouraged, I may give it up. I felt saying thee very difficult to-day to Mrs. ——, but I perceived it was far more so after I sang to them. I altogether get on pretty well, but doubts came into my mind this morning; yet were I not to persevere I should, I believe, feel unhappy in it. How shall I say thee to H—— in Norwich! It will I think make me lose all my dissipation of character, and be a guard upon my tongue.

Earlham, 9*th*.—My father, Kitty, and myself set out early this morning for Newmarket. When I was there, I saw Henry B——; my sensation was odd when I saw him, for I took to my heels and ran away. I thought I could not get courage to address him in the plain language; but after I collected myself, I did it without much difficulty. How easy it has been made to me! By what nice degrees I have entered it, but I believe the hardest part is to come; I have felt the advantage of it, though at times in a dark and discouraging state. It makes me think before I speak, and avoid saying much, and also avoid the spirit of gaiety and flirting.

CHAPTER IV.

1798—1800. Return to Earlham—Attention to the Poor—Kindness to others—Appearance—Journey to the North of England—Visit to the Friends' School at Ackworth—Becomes a plain Friend—Proposals of Marriage from Mr. Fry—Letter to her cousin, Joseph Gurney Bevan—Letter to a young Friend.

Mr. Gurney and his family returned home in September, 1798; Elizabeth, undoubtedly strengthened in her desire to become a plain Friend, though scrupulously careful not to advance one step hastily, or to oppose the wishes of her brothers and sisters on any point, in which she could yield to them with an easy conscience. She resumed her usual habits of self-occupation and usefulness to others; visiting and relieving the poor, both at Earlham and in Norwich, especially the sick; reading the Bible to them and instructing their children. Her school too, gradually increased from the small beginning of one little boy, to so great a number, that her teaching them in the house became inconvenient, and a vacant laundry was appropriated to this purpose. She had at last above seventy scholars without assistance, without monitors, without even the countless books and pictures of the present day; how she controlled the wills and fixed the attention of so many unruly children, must ever remain a mystery to those who have not the gift she possessed, of influencing the minds of others.

Nor was her attention confined to the poor, where any little kindness seemed needed, there she delighted to offer it. A circumstance marking this trait in her character, was related a few years ago to one of her family, by a lady, the widow of an officer, who was living alone in a small house near Norwich, about 1798, during her husband's absence. Her income was limited; she was young, and had few acquaintances. It was during her confinement with her first child that she was surprised by a loud ring at the bell. Her servant came running up stairs with a basket in her hand, and in the broad dialect peculiar to Norfolk, informed her mistress that it had been left by "a beautiful lady on horseback, in a scarlet riding habit," whose servant had told her it was Miss Elizabeth Gurney. The basket contained a chicken and some little delicacies; and the same attentions were repeated, although she personally was a stranger to Elizabeth and her family.

We have no exact knowledge of the time when the scarlet riding habit was abandoned; nor is it easy to ascertain by what gradations she became a Friend in outward appearance. She was slow in adopting the costume; she first laid aside all ornament, then she chose quiet and inconspicuous colours, and had her dresses made with perfect simplicity. As late as the spring of 1799, an eye-witness describes her in a plain slate-coloured silk dress; but a black lace veil twisted in the turban fashion of the day with her long blonde hair, the ends hanging on one side.

Earlham, 10th September.—We arrived last night from our long, and in some respects, delightful journey. So far from hurting me, I hope it will act as a fresh stimulus to virtue and religion, at least it should; I have had some bright and clear times that should not be forgotten. I felt quite in a flutter, expecting H—— and Dr. Alderson to dinner; they came, and I had little difficulty in saying, thee;—so do such evils vanish, if duty support us. In the afternoon, I had a very serious talk with Kitty about my being a Friend. She thinks that my judgment is too young and inexperienced to be able to take up any particular opinions; she may be right. I am willing to give up the company of Friends and their books, if she request it; but I do firmly believe my mind will never be easy or happy unless I am a Quaker.

14th.—I know I am not able to judge, and all I pray for is, faith, humility and patience; and I hope, if ill or well, to do the will of God. May, Oh may I! is the inmost prayer of my heart. I must try not to fear; what will not faith do for us! It would lead us to all happiness, but works are required, and I believe true faith hardly attainable without them.

27th.—This evening I have been doing exercises, and singing with them; my mind feels very clear to-night and my body much better. I have been thinking about singing, I hope in that, as in every thing else, to do what is right. I cannot say I feel it wrong to sing to my own family, it is sweet and right to give them pleasure. I do not approve of singing in company, as it leads to vanity and dissipation of mind; but that I believe I have no occasion to do, as dear Rachel does not request it, for she does not like it herself. I should be sorry quite to give up singing as the gift of nature, and on her account; as long as it does not lead me from what is right, I need not fear.

29th.—I have much enjoyed the company of my dear boy Sammy this evening, I think we shall always feel much love for each other; young as he is, I love him particularly. Afterwards we received a letter from dear Priscilla Gurney.

October 5th.—In the evening a fiddler came, we all had a dance, I had the tooth-ache, and so from its making me merry, it made me grave. I do not feel satisfaction in dancing.

6th.—This morning I awoke not comfortable, the subject of dancing came strongly before my mind. Totally declining it, as a matter of pleasure I do not mind, only as I am situated with the others I find it difficult; the question is, if these may not be scruples of my own forming, that I may one day repent of? The bottom of my heart is inclined to Quakerism, and I know what imagination can do. I believe the formation of my mind is such, that it requires the bonds and ties of Quakerism to fit it for immortality. I feel it a very great blessing being so little in the company of superior fascinating Quakers; because it makes me act freely and look to the only true Judge, for what is right for me to do. The next question I ask myself is, am I sufficiently clear, that dancing is wrong, to give it up? because I know much precaution is quite necessary. I believe I may if I like, make one more trial, and judge again how I feel; but I must reflect upon it, determining to give it up, if I think right. I wish to make it a subject of very serious reflection, hoping, as usual, to do right; it will hurt them much I fear, but time I believe will take that off, if they see me more happy and better for it. Let me redouble all kindness to them. Catharine seems to wish I would give up my correspondence with Anna Savery, which I think I may do. This day has been very comfortable in most respects, though I have not done much. I have finished my letter to my dear cousin Priscilla, and that to Mrs. ——; but I cannot feel quite easy to send it, without first speaking to my father, for I do believe it is my duty to make him my friend in all things, though I think it probable, he will discourage me in writing to my friend Sophy, yet never keep any thing from him; but let me be an open, true, kind, and dutiful daughter to him, whilst life is in my body.

12*th*.—I have many great faults, but I have some dispositions I should be most thankful for. I believe I feel much for my fellow-creatures; though I think I mostly see into the minds of those I associate with, and am apt to satirise their weaknesses; yet I don't remember ever being any time with one who was not extremely disgusting, but I felt a sort of love for them, and I do hope I would sacrifice my life for the good of mankind. My mind is too much like a looking-glass—objects of all kinds are easily reflected in it whilst present, but when they go, their reflection is gone also. I have a faint idea of many things, a strong idea of few; therefore my mind is cultivated badly. I have many straggling, but not many connected ideas. I have the materials to form good in my mind, but I am not a sufficiently good artificer to unite them properly together, and make a good consistence; for in some parts, I am too hard, in others, too soft. I hope and believe the great Artificer is now at work, that if I join my power to the only One who is able to conduct me aright, I may one day be better than I am.

17*th*.—My journal has not gone on well of late; partly owing to my going out, and having people in this room, now there is a fire; I dislike going out, what my mind wants, is peace and quiet. The other night, as I was alone in a carriage, a fine starlight night, I thought, what is it I want? how I overflow with the blessings of this world; I have true friends, as many as I wish for; good health, a happy home, with all that riches can give, and yet all these are nothing without a satisfied conscience. At times I feel satisfied, but I have not reason to feel so often; oh, that I could! perhaps this night, with constant exertion all day, I may feel that first of feelings. It is now afternoon.—I woke in a bad mind, but I am happy to say I overcame it, by doing as I thought right, which appeared at once to turn the scale from dulness to liveliness; from a bad mind to a good one. This afternoon I have much to correct, I feel proud, vain and disagreeable; not touched with the sweet humility of Christianity; nor is my heart enlightened by its happy doctrines. I have now two things heavily weighing on my mind—dancing and singing, so sweet and so pretty do they seem; but as surely as I do either, so surely does a dark cloud come over my mind. It is not only my giving up these things, but I am making the others miserable, and laying a restraint upon their pleasures. In the next place, Am I sure I am going upon a good foundation? if I am doing right, God will protect me and them also; If I am doing wrong, what foundation do I stand upon? None: then all to me is nothing. Let me try to take my thoughts from this world, and look to the only true Judge. I believe singing to be so natural, that I may try it a little longer: but I do think dancing may be given up. What particularly led me to this state, was our having company, and I thought I must sing; I sang a little, but did not stay with them during the playing. My mind continued in a state of some agitation, and I did not sleep till some time after I was in bed.

19*th*.—My mind feels more this morning, if any thing, than it did last night. Can such feelings be my own putting on? they seem to affect my whole frame, mental and bodily; they cannot be myself, for if I were to give worlds, I could not remove them; they truly make me shake. When I look forwards I think I can see, if I have strength to do as they direct, I shall be another person: sorrow, I believe, will remove to be replaced by joy; then let me now act! My best method of conduct will be to tell Rachel how I am situated in mind, and then ask her what she would advise; and be very kind and tell her the true state of the case. Is it worth while to continue in so small a pleasure for so much pain? The pleasure is nothing to me, but it is a grand step to take in life.—I have been and spoken to Rachel, saying, I think I must give up singing. It is astonishing the total change that has taken place, from misery I am now come to joy; I felt ill before, I now feel well—thankful should I be for being directed, and pray to keep up always to that direction. After having spoken to my darling Rachel, where I fear I said too much, I rode to Norwich after some poor people; I went to see many, and added my mite to their comfort. Nothing I think could exceed the kindness of my dear Rachel. Though I have no one here to encourage me in Quakerism, I believe I must be one before I am content.

7th December.—Yesterday evening, I went to the Eidoranion. I have had a letter to say my dear friend William Savery is arrived safely in America. Kitty and I have been having a long talk together this evening upon sects; we both seem to think them almost necessary. It is long since I have what I call truly written my journal; writing my journal, is to me expressing the feelings of my heart during the day; I have partly given it up from the coldness of the weather, and not having a snug fire to sit by. I wish now, as I have opportunity, to look a little into the present situation of my heart; that is the advantage of writing a true journal, it leads the mind to look inwards. Of late I do not think I have been sufficiently active, but have given rather way to a dilatory spirit. I have been reading Watts's Logic, it tells me how ill-regulated are my thoughts, they ramble truly! Regularity of thought and deed is what I much want; I appear to myself to have almost a confusion of ideas, which leads to a confusion of actions; I want order; I believe it difficult to obtain, but yet with perseverance attainable. The first way to obtain it, appears to me, to try to prevent my thoughts from rambling, and to keep them as steadily as possible to the object in view. True religion is what I seldom feel, nor do I sufficiently try after it by really seeking devotion; I do not warmly seek it, I am sure, nor do I live in the fear of an all-wise Being who watches over us; I seldom look deep enough, but dwell too much on the surface of things, and let my ideas float. Such is my state. I can't tell how I feel exactly:—at times all seems to me mystery; "when I look at the heavens the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars which Thou hast ordained, what is man that Thou art mindful of him, or the Son of Man that Thou visitest him?" Thou must exist, oh God! for the heavens declare Thy glory, and the firmament showeth Thy handy-works.

8*th.*—Since dinner I have read much Logic and enjoyed it; it is interesting to me, and may, I think, with attention, do me good. Reading Watts, impresses deeply on my mind how very careful I should be of judging; how much I should consider before I speak or form an opinion; how careful I should be not to let my mind be tinged throughout, with one reigning subject, to try not to associate ideas; but judge of things according to the evidence they give my mind of their own worth. My mind is like a pair of scales that are not inclined to balance equally; at least when I begin to form a judgment, and try to hold the balance equally, as soon as I perceive one scale is at all heavier than the other, I am apt at once to let it fall on that side; forgetting what remains in the other scale, which though lighter should not be forgotten. For instance, I look at a character, at first I try to judge calmly and truly; but if I see more virtues than vices, I am apt soon to like that character so much that I like its weaknesses also, and forget they are weaknesses. The same if evil may preponderate, I forget the virtues.

12*th.*—This day finished with a dance. If I could make a rule never to give way to vanity, excitement or flirting, I do not think I should object to dancing; but it always leads me into some one of these faults; indeed, I never remember dancing without feeling one, if not a little of all the three, and sometimes a great deal. But as my giving it up would hurt many, it should be one of those things I part with most carefully.

30*th.*—I went to Meeting in the morning and afternoon; both times rather dark; but I have been a little permitted to see my own state, which is the greatest favour I can ask for at present; to know what I should do, and to be assisted in my duties: for it is hard, very hard, to act right, at least I find it so. But there is the comfortable consideration, that God is merciful and full of compassion, he is tender over His children. I had a satisfactory time with my girls and boys.

January 4th, 1799.—Most of this morning I spent in Norwich seeing after the poor; I do little for them, and I do not like it should appear I do much. I must be most guarded, and tell those who know I do charity that I am only my father's agent. A plan, at least a duty, that I have felt for some time, I will now mention. I have been trying to overcome fear; my method has been to stay in the dark, and at night to go into those rooms not generally inhabited; there is a strange propensity in the human mind to fear in the dark, there is a sort of dread of something supernatural: I tried to overcome that, by considering that as far as I believed in ghosts, so far I must believe in a state after death, and it must confirm my belief in the Spirit of God; therefore if I try to act right, I have no need to fear the directions of Infinite Wisdom. I do not turn away such things as some do; I believe nothing impossible to God, and He may have used spirits as agents for purposes beyond our conceptions; I know they can only come when He pleases, therefore we need not fear them. But my most predominant fear is that of thieves; and I find that still more difficult to overcome, but faith would cure that also, for God can equally protect us from man as from spirit.

8*th*.—My father not appearing to like all my present doings, has been rather a cloud over my mind this day; there are few, if any, in the world I love so well, I am not easy to do what he would not like, for I think I could sacrifice almost any thing for him, I owe him so much, I love him so much.

I have been reading Watts on Judgment this afternoon; it has led me into thought, and particularly upon the evidence I have to believe in religion. The first thing that strikes me, is the perception we all have, of being under a power superior to human. I seldom feel this so much as when unwell; to see how pain can visit me, and how it is taken away. Work for ever, we could not create life. There must be a cause to produce an effect. The next thing that strikes me, is good and evil, virtue and vice, happiness and unhappiness—these are acknowledged to be linked together; virtue produces good; vice evil; of course the Power that allows this shows approbation of virtue. Thirdly, Christianity seems also to have its clear evidences, even to my human reason. My mind has not been convinced by books; but what little faith I have, has been confirmed by reading the holy writers themselves.

26*th.*—The thoughts of the evening occupied me, yet thinking I might dance. —— was here, who showed me a great deal of attention. I have not been enough on my guard; yet I feel more satisfied than I mostly am after such occasions. I was in very high spirits, for me.

27*th.*—I have had, in many respects, comfortable Meetings; only my thoughts too giddy dwelling too much on what pleased me yesterday; they have, I am sorry to say, been occupied with old subjects, such as dress and a little flirting, I fear. I have enjoyed my little party as usual, who are now, when complete, fifteen in number. What path I shall go in life is hidden from my view. May I go in that in which I ought to go! Do not forget how much more tempting it is to choose the easiest, and yet do not enter difficulties for difficulty's sake. Try to be led by no person, but by my own conscience.

29*th.*—I am in a doubtful state of mind. I think my mind is timid, and my affections strong, which may be partly the cause of my being so much inclined to Quakerism; in the first place, my affections were worked upon, in receiving the first doctrines of religion, and I loved them through a Quaker; therefore it is likely they would put on that garb in my mind. In the next place, my timidity may make me uncomfortable, in erring from principles that I am so much inclined to adopt; so far I should be on my guard, and I hope not to forget what I have just mentioned. But yet, I think the only true standard I can have to direct myself by, is that, which experience proves to give me the most happiness, by enabling me to be more virtuous: I believe there is something in the mind, or in the heart that shows its approbation when we do right. I give myself this advice: do not fear truth, let it be ever so contrary to inclination and feeling. Never give up the search after it; and let me take courage, and try from the bottom of my heart to do that which I believe truth dictates, if it lead me to be a Quaker or not. The last and the best advice I can give myself, is; as far as I am able, to look up to the God who is unitedly worshipped by the whole earth, who has created us, and who we feel has power over our thoughts, words and deeds.

February 7th.—I read much this morning in St. Basil, which is to me excellent, interesting and beautiful. He advises a constant thanksgiving for the many blessings we enjoy, and that we should not grumble at the evils we are subject to; how much more cause have I for thankfulness than sorrow! I seldom give thanks for the many blessings that surround me. St. Basil beautifully says, "we should not eat, we should not drink, without giving thanks to God."

14*th.*—I hope, I have from experience gained a little. I am much of a Friend in my principles at this time, but do not outwardly appear much so; I say "thee" to people, and do not dress very gay, but yet I say "Mr." and "Mrs.," wear a turban, &c., &c. I have one remark to make; every step I have taken towards Quakerism has given me satisfaction.

18*th.*—I feel I must not despair; I consider I first brought sceptical opinions upon myself, and it is only what is due to me that they should now hurt me. I hope I do not much murmur at the decrees of the Almighty; and can I expect, who am so faulty, to be blessed with entire faith? Let me once more try and pray, that the many evil roots in my own mind may be eradicated. I had altogether a pretty good day, rather too much vanity at being mistress at home, and having to entertain many guests.

24*th.*—What feeling so cheering to the human mind as religion; what thankfulness should I feel to God! I have great reason to believe Almighty God is directing my mind to the haven of peace, at least I feel that I am guided by a Power not my own. How dark was my mind for some days! How heavy! I saw duties to be performed that even struck me as foolish. I took courage and tried to follow the directions of this voice; I felt enlightened, even happy. Again I erred, again I was in a cloud; I once more tried, and again I felt brightened.

25th.—This time last year, I was with my dear friend William Savery, at Westminster Meeting. I can only thankfully admire, when I look back to about that time, the gentle leadings my soul has had, from the state of great darkness it was in; how suddenly did the light of Christianity burst upon my mind. I have reason to believe in religion from my own experience, and what foundation so solid to build my hopes upon; may I gain from the little experiences I have been blessed with, may I encourage the voice of truth, and may I be a steady and virtuous combatant in the service of God. Such I think I may truly say is my most ardent prayer. But God, who is omnipresent, knows my thoughts; knows my wishes, and my many many feelings; may I conclude with saying, "cleanse thou me from secret faults."

28th.—We have had company most part of the day. I have had an odd feeling. Uncle Joseph and many gay ones were here; I had a sort of sympathy with him. I feel to have been so much off my guard, that if tempted I should have done wrong. I now hear them singing. How much my natural heart does love to sing: but if I give way to the ecstacy singing sometimes produces in my mind, it carries me far beyond the centre; it increases all the wild passions, and works on enthusiasm. Many say and think it leads to religion; it may lead to emotions of religion, but true religion appears to me to be in a deeper recess of the heart; where no earthly passion can produce it. However, music may sometimes be of use: and I think our earthly feelings are made use of to lead us to much better things. I think music and dancing the first pleasures in life, not happiness; they elevate too high. They may be right, but I do not feel quite free to enjoy them; I will now leave it, as my judgment is not clear.

March 1st.—There is going to be a dance—What am I to do? As far as I can see, I believe, if I find it very necessary to their pleasure, I may do it, but not for my own gratification. Remember, don't be vain; if it be possible, dance little.

I began to dance in a state next to pain of mind; when I had danced four dances, I was trying to pluck up courage to tell Rachel I wished to give it up for the evening; it seemed as if she looked into my mind, for she came up to me at that minute in the most tender manner, and begged me to leave off, saying she would contrive without me; I suppose she saw in my countenance the state of my mind. I am not half kind enough to her, I often make sharp remarks to her, and in reality there are none of my sisters to whom I owe so much; I must think of her as my nurse! she would suffer much to comfort me; may she, oh God! be blessed; wouldest Thou, oh wouldest Thou, let her see her right path whatever that may be, and wilt Thou enable her to keep up to her duty, in whatever line it may lead. Let this evening be a lesson to me, not to be unkind to her any more. I think I should feel more satisfaction in not dancing; but such things must be left very much to the time. How very much do I wish for their happiness; that they may be blessed in every way, is what I pray for to the Great Director; but all is guided in wisdom, and I believe, as a family, we have much to be thankful for all ways, both for bodily and mental blessings.

4th.—I hope the day has passed without many faults. John is just come in to ask me to dance in such a kind way,—oh dear me! I am now acting clearly differently from them all. Remember this, as I have this night refused to dance with my dearest brother, I must out of kindness to him not be tempted by any one else. Have mercy, oh God! have mercy upon me! and let me act right, I humbly pray Thee; wilt Thou love my dearest most dear brothers and sisters, wilt Thou protect us? Dear John! I feel much for him, such as these are home strokes, but I had far rather have them, if indeed guided by Supreme Wisdom; for then I need not fear. I know that not dancing will not lead me to do wrong, and I fear dancing does; though the task is hard on their account, I hope I do not mind the pain to myself. I feel for them; but if they see in time I am happier for it, I think they will no longer lament over me. I will go to them as soon as they have done, try to be cheerful and to show them I love them; for I do most truly, particularly John. I think I might talk a little with John, and tell him how I stand, for it is much my wisest plan to keep truly intimate with them all; make them my first friends. I do not think I ever love them so well as at such times as these. I should fully express my love for them, and how nearly it touches my heart, acting differently to what they like. These are truly great steps to take in life, but I may expect support under them.

16*th.*—I know I want correction, for these few days past I have not gone on well, a sort of coldness, darkness, and uncertainty that will sometimes take possession of the mind; it is I believe much owing to a want of vigilance and activity on my part, and it does not always please the Almighty to enlighten us equally. I am a very negligent being. If, as Deborah Darby said to me, I will do as far as I know to be right, I may one day be a light to the blind, feet to the lame, &c., &c. Shall such a state ever be mine? if there be any chance of such a thing, I should labour for it. I think the time I spent at Colebrook Dale one of the happiest, if not the happiest time of my life. I think my feelings that night, at Deborah Darby's, were the most exalted I ever remember. I, in a manner, was one of the beginners of the Meeting; suddenly my mind felt clothed with light, as with a garment, and I felt silenced before God; I cried with the heavenly feeling of humility and repentance. Then, when I was in this awful state, there were two sermons preached, one telling me to get the pearl of great price; and the other telling me what I might expect, even happiness in this world, and everlasting happiness in the one to come. But that silence, which first took possession of my mind exceeded all the rest.

Fourth month, 6*th.*—I have not done a great deal to-day, and yet I hope I have not been idle: I try to do right now and then, but by no means constantly. I could not recover the feeling of being hurt at rejecting, I suppose, the voice of my mind last night when I sang so much; they were not I believe feelings of my own making, for it was my wish to enjoy singing without thinking it wrong. I have written to Hannah Hoare to day: the remembrance of the kind affection of that family is very sweet to my mind, I feel a real love for them and interest in their welfare. They understand better than almost any people I ever saw, the true method of being kind; they seem to feel for others, and therefore understand what will most please them, I hope not to forget their attentions to me, and have a strong desire that our friendship may be lasting, and not subject to be blown away by the first wind that comes; I have seen so much of the fickleness of young people's friendships, I do not feel the dependence upon them I formerly did. I am inclined to think the time will come, when I shall not be quite so dear to my gay friends, but I have a great hope they will keep steady; I heartily wish they may.

7th.—I have hopes the day may come when Norwich Meeting will prosper and be enlivened again, from a state of cloudiness. In the afternoon, I went with them to hear a person preach at the Baptists' Meeting: I felt afraid of setting my own opinions up and being uncharitable. It did not seem to suit me like our silent method of worship, and the prayers and sermon did not make their way into the heart as those of our Friends do; but it is likely I should feel that, as I have much love for my own Society. Uncle Joseph was here in the evening, and he seemed rather surprised at my going to hear Kinghorn. I had an interesting time with my young flock, I fear I might say rather too much to them; mayst Thou, oh Father! preserve them, for without Thy aid my efforts are ineffectual; mayst Thou make me an instrument in leading them to true virtue, and may the day come when Thou wilt call them to everlasting joy.

15th.—I had for my poor wandering thoughts a satisfactory Meeting; partly owing to being nervous, for it leads me to cast my care upon the Lord. I went to Bedlam, and felt glad to see the poor Melton woman going on well. If comfort be once permitted to enter her heart, it will be a cause of true pleasure to me, and I hope of gratitude to the all-wise Director; but He knows better than I what is for her good. To-day, at Meeting, I felt such a relief in the thought that God knows all our thoughts, all our temptations, and that He knows also how much power we have to overcome them: for I felt I could not have a just estimate of my own self.

22nd.—I have read a good deal of Lavater's journal, and have felt sympathy with him. I like the book, as it reminds me of my duty. I hope that I shall have more steady reliance upon God; more regularity of mind; less volatility of thought. To have my heart pure in the sight of Thee, who knowest and seest all my weaknesses, all my defects; God have mercy on me, I pray Thee! mayst thou find in me a faithful servant, abounding in good works; may my whole heart say truly, Thy will be done! may I ever with all my heart say the Lord's prayer. Thou knowest my wishes, oh God; Thou knowest them!

24*th*.—I awoke with good resolutions, wishing to obtain that peaceful state of mind, of feeling myself humbly trying to do the will of the Almighty; I took good resolves, but my nature seems not in the mind to act up to them. I feel to have too much volatility of thought to keep that watch so necessary about my thoughts, words and actions. I do not think this has been a bad day; part of it very satisfactory, particularly teaching three little girls. How little the feelings of my heart seem under my own power; I feel them like my body, under another power; yet mankind do not seem willing to allow that God is the Governor and Director of the heart, though they mostly acknowledge, it is He who guides all outward circumstances; we find we have inward and outward evil to combat, but we have a power within ourselves, that will much alleviate the many evils we are subject to.

28*th*.—I then had a very satisfactory evening with my dear Sam; how do I love that dear boy—may he do well! I am inclined to think the day will come, when we shall see him a religious character.

Fifth Month, 1*st*.—Even acting right will sometimes bring dissensions in a family, as it says in the Testament; we must not be discouraged even when that is our lot, for whatever may be our situation, if we strictly adhere to that which we believe to be our duty, we need not fear, but rest steadily upon Him who can and will support us. I often observe how much weakness of body seems to humble the mind; illness is of great benefit to us, as I have found from experience, if we try to make good use of it; it leads us to see our own weakness and debility, and to look to a stronger for support. So I believe it may be with the mind; dark and gloomy states are allowed to come upon it that we may know our own insufficiency, and place our dependence upon a Higher Power.

16*th*.—I have not done much to-day, partly owing to taking a walk to Melton, and company this afternoon. I am sorry to say, imperceptibly my mind gets wrapped up in the Election. I must take care, or I think I shall be off my guard, and I do think if I become so warm in it, I shall find it better to go out of the way; and may perhaps go to London Yearly Meeting. But why not try to command my mind at home? I intend to try, but in such cases as this, it is difficult to act a negative character; for even such a body as I am, might, I believe, get many votes amongst the poor: but yet I feel as if it were giving to the poor with an expectation of return from them to ask for their votes. Still, if the cause be such, as may be of use in tending to abolish the war (for every member in the House carries some weight), is it not right to be anxious to get any one, who opposes war, into it? "many a little makes a mickle."

27*th.*—At last this long wished for expected day has arrived; it has been one of real bustle. Before we went to Norwich, I was much affected to hear of the death of poor Betty Pettet, and it moved me. Let death come in any way, how very affecting it is! We went to Norwich, and then entered its tumults. I have not been so very very much interested; I might have acted pretty well, if pride, vanity, and shame had not crept in; we lost the Election, which is certainly a very great blank, but we soon get over such matters, and it convinces me, the less public matters are entered into the better, they do not suit us; keep to our own sphere, and do not go out of its bounds.

Seventh Month, 12*th.*—This day has not been idle, but not religious. I was most part of the morning at Norwich; in the afternoon, I settled accounts; and in the evening, cut out clothes for the poor. I don't think I have looked into the Testament, or written my journal to-day; it leads me to remember what uncle Joseph said to me the other day, after relating or reading to me the history of Mary, who anointed our Saviour with the precious ointment, and His disciples said she might have sold it, and given to the poor, but Christ said, "The poor ye have always with you, but me you have not always;" now I thought as uncle Joseph remarked, I might this evening have spent too much time about the poor, that should have been spent about better things.

In July, Mr. Gurney travelled into the North of England, accompanied by his daughters Elizabeth and Priscilla, and his son Samuel. They attended the General Meeting at the Friend's Public School at Ackworth: this interested Elizabeth, from bringing her into communication with several Friends. Among others, there was one from America, named Hannah Barnard, a person of talent and much plausibility; but who was strongly suspected of being unsound in that essential article of faith, the divinity of Christ; to prove this was however no easy matter; but after much difficulty and delay, the Friends in England declined her further religious services, and advised her to return home, where she was shortly afterwards disunited, as a member of their religious body, by Friends of that country. It appears that Elizabeth Gurney was not attracted by this person, although at that time her own opinions were by no means clear or decided; she felt in her communications with her the want of that unction, which alone could satisfy her mind; for however imperfect and shortcoming the true believer may be, there is a reflection of the Master's image to be perceived in every instance, where, in His offices of Prophet, Priest, and King, the Saviour has been received into the heart of man. The Institution at Ackworth is for the maintenance and education of 300 Friends' children; it is partly supported by contributions, partly by a moderate payment on the part of the parents. There is a Provincial Committee appointed by the Ackworth General Meeting, held in London, at the time of the Yearly Meeting. Once in the year, the members of this Committee are met at Ackworth, by a deputation from the Yearly Meeting; and any other Friends who are disposed to join them. A minute investigation then takes place of the religious state of the children, their advance in learning, their health, and domestic comfort.

The travellers afterwards visited Sheepwash, an estate on the beautiful banks of the Wanspeck, at that time belonging to Mr.

Gurney. Elizabeth's histories of their rambles among the woods and scenery there, often delighted her children in after life; they extended their journey to Edinburgh, and returned home, paying a few visits on their way.

Lynn, Seventh Month, 28th.—This was one of the very bustling mornings, to which Earlham is subject, on any of the family leaving home. We had a quiet sort of a journey here, and though I felt sorry, yet I am glad to be away from home, as we have lately had so much bustle, and I know I have so little cultivated or encouraged a religious state of mind; indeed I have been in a darkish state of late, sadly erring from the path of right: and I appeared to have gone so far out of it, that I could not get into it again, till temptation was a little lessened, which I hope it will be this journey. I think it probable, I shall be more stimulated in the right, than the wrong path.

Peterborough, 29th.—We went to Meeting this morning; and since have been travelling.

30th.—We had a long day's journey; I hope it has been my object at least to try to act right. The propriety of saying "thou" has lately struck me: if I think it right to say it I hope I shall be able, though any alteration of speech is very difficult to make.

Ackworth, Eighth Month, 1st.—To-day what is called the General Meeting began; we first had a meeting of worship, which was rather agreeable: after which, we dined with a very large party in the boy's dining-room at the School; as I was wandering about in the bustle, I went into the plain Friends' room,(which I often did) where I had not been very long, before I felt myself fall into silence before God, which the rest of the party appeared to do also; we had not sat long before William Crotch began to preach to me. I was much affected; then old Friend Hustler said something to me; may I profit by such refreshing times. At four o'clock, the Women's Meeting met; I amongst a great number was chosen one of the Committee to examine the children, school and household: Hannah Barnard appeared to me to hold rather too high a hand. After Meeting, we examined the bed-rooms, which I thought in good order, and talked a little to Hannah Barnard.

2nd.—I arose about six to go to the School to hear the girls spell, which I was pleased with, but should have liked to have questioned them more myself. After that, we breakfasted; then met in the Committee, to fix a little the plans we should go upon. I and Sarah Cockfield were mentioned to go and attend to the Grammar School; I said that I had only a slight knowledge of grammar. We then went to the Grammar School; the writing, ciphering, working, mending, spinning, knitting, and sewing, all which I liked much, and thought upon the whole they did very well indeed; we then examined parts of the house; after which we dined, and at three o'clock met to hear the report of the Committee; I forgot that before dinner, we met at twelve o'clock to draw up the report of what we thought of the proceedings of the school. It was some time before any one would speak; Friends were begging the Committee to say what they thought, but in vain, till I think Hannah Barnard broke the ice, and encouraged the young people to say what they thought; for they had been requested before. As it appeared to me it was delaying the Meeting, I took courage (as I thought it was more right than wrong) to speak; and said what I thought of the grammar and ciphering; I felt glad I had done it, though I trembled at doing it, not a little. Towards the latter part of the sitting, I was pointedly asked what I thought of their spelling, which I said; and also that I did not think they attended to the words of one, so well as to those of many syllables. After the Meetings, I was encouraged in what I had done, by salutations from the Friends, Hannah Barnard and Elizabeth Cogshall. After dinner, we met again and heard the report they had written to bring in to the men. I thought the Meeting paid rather too much deference to Hannah Barnard, in delaying the Meeting, because she was not come in. The Meeting concluded, after long waiting to choose a sub-committee, which after all was not done, and we took the report to the men; I own my body and mind longed impatiently to have Meeting over. After tea, I had a few interesting minutes with Hannah Barnard, to whom I had longed to speak about my beloved friend William

Savery; I met her standing against the wall in the long passage, by Dr. Binn's door. I went up to her, took hold of her hand and entered into talk with her; I mentioned dear William Savery: we went and sat in the Doctor's room, where was Thomas Scattergood, whom, though I do not think he spoke, yet I liked.

3rd.—I arose in a bustle and hurried about till the "cold victuals" were given to the poor, which plan I did not much like, as it seemed like showing off. William Crotch preached to them very agreeably, after which Thomas Scattergood called us aside, and in a little Meeting expressed the great love he felt for me yesterday, which made it appear to me, as if there were a sympathy of soul, and we both were guided by the same spirit; he expressed how much he felt for me at the time I came into Doctor Binn's room, and had then felt it on his mind to say something to me; I also had felt a silent inclination to hear. We then set off on our journey to York. I have not sufficiently dwelt on the kindness of some Friends to me during our stay at Ackworth. First, dear Christiana Hustler and her daughter; Friend Messer, and many others. May I really profit by this time. We arrived at York to a late dinner, and drank tea at Lindley Murray's, whom though I hardly spoke to, I really loved; there was also B—— F——'s daughter, who seemed sweetly under the guidance and influence of religion; she was to me truly interesting, but I think I was too forward with her; I felt my own inferiority.

4th.—This morning we walked about York, and saw its wonders. We saw the Friends' Retreat for crazy people, which my father thought extravagantly carried on. The Minster is a beautiful building; how much people spend about a pious building! would they spend as much time and trouble about their own souls? We got to Darlington to night. This morning, I was much pleased by a note and present from Lindley Murray, of one of his English Readers; it renewed my feelings of love towards him.

5th.—We were at both Meetings, at Darlington, to-day; I was much pleased with the Friends there, and their appearance of unity and hospitality. We reached Durham to-night; I was much pleased with the beautiful scenery entering the town.

6th.—Arrived at Newcastle in a hard rain. Was in a bad storm of thunder and lightning, at the Glasshouses; altogether my mind was calm.

7th.—Much bustle and fatigue in walking about Newcastle, seeing different sights; we arrived at Sheepwash to-night.

8th.—This morning, we spent in riding about my father's estate, which is a beautiful place; I had rather an exertion of courage in riding an unruly horse. We walked out again in the evening; I had much of the toothache.

9th.—Walked with R—— C—— to Broom Park. I must beware of my proud, vain self.

10th.—We spent the day, till about five, at Broom Park; I do not like myself in that sort of company, I am almost sure to lose ground by a sort of foolish wish to please every body; I do not absolutely deviate from my character; but I enter as far as I can into the character of those I am with, and unintentionally give up more than I should. We went from thence to Alnwick Castle, belonging to the Duke of Northumberland, a very magnificent place; but seeing such places, never leads me to wish for high life, for, after all, are the possessors happier, if so happy as others? the only true and lasting source of happiness is an easy conscience.

Edlington, Scotland, 11th.—We saw to-day a very beautiful view, Peese Bridge, nature and art are so finely united; there is sea, land, wood, waterfall, mountain, valley, and a bridge, I should say more than two hundred feet high.

Shields, 19th.—I am sorry it is so long since I wrote my journal. We have been to Edinburgh, which is a city well worth seeing, for its beauty and curiosity. There was an American Friend who put me much in mind of dear William Savery. We again went to Broom Park, where we were most hospitably received. On Second-day evening, on our way from Edinburgh, I was rather nervous. I feel, I am sorry to say, little progress in the path of virtue: keeping up that watch and dependence upon God is so difficult; it is hard work to look only to the true Source in our hearts, we are so apt to wish to save ourselves that trouble, and to look to inferior sources. I believe talking much on the subject has not a good effect, for it leads us to an outward rather than deeply inward feeling; it is hard work really to dig deep; I seem to have so many faults or errors encamped round about me, they are out of my power to overcome alone; but can I not do it with looking to God for assistance?

Earlham, 29th —On Third-day evening, we arrived safely at home, after altogether a pleasant journey.

Ninth Month, 13th.—This morning I awoke with a cloud over me, and so I must expect both to wake and sleep, if I do not try more completely to do the will of God. I dare not take resolutions, as I know now I cannot keep up to them.

17*th.*—This evening, I feel a comfortable state of mind, not so inclined to be off my guard as sometimes, I know it is not owing to myself; but being so, should be a cause of gratitude. This evening I did a thing I felt I had to repent of, but it has at least made me clear upon the subject; as they were singing and playing, they begged me to sing, and I did it, but I felt far more pain than pleasure from doing it. A really uneasy mind was my portion the rest of the evening.

18*th.*—This morning I went to Meeting, and fully felt my weakness; but I have found myself to-day and yesterday, a little under the influence of religion, which is a blessed thing. I had much palpitation at the Meeting of Discipline, because I saw some things so clearly, but being mentioned by others, I thought I might get off giving an opinion. I was proposed to be representative, and said I had no objection, indeed I felt no objection on my own part, because though I know how weak I am, yet even the weak should not fear to exert the little power they have; and I do feel interested for the Society, and for the most part, approve its principles highly.

Tenth Month, 1st.—I feel in a state of much mental weakness, real and true discouragement; I have little faith and little hope, and almost fallen so as not to be able to rise. But if there be a God and a Saviour I need not fear; for though I know and find my state of corruption, yet I believe the warmest wish of my heart is, to do the will of God, and to act right: I do most truly hunger and thirst after righteousness. I find one thing very hard to overcome, which is pride and vanity in outward religious matters. True religion, I believe, will not admit of pride and vanity. Another temptation is, that I have too much formed in my own mind what I think I am to be; which may outwardly encourage me in a path, that nothing but the dictates of conscience should lead me into. I am really weak in faith, and in works; I believe at least I have a hope that if I exert the little power I now have given me, the day will come when I shall feel the power of God within me.

13th.—Narrow is the path that leadeth unto life eternal, and few there be that find it. There are many called, but few chosen —for though we are blessed with being called, yet if we follow not when we are called, and that strictly, we do not deserve to be called the children of God, for, as it says in the Revelation, "He that overcometh shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be my son."

24th.—I feel this morning as I have felt lately, quite in a hurry about what I have to do; and I do not think that that is the way to do it well; it is better to go soberly and quietly to work about it, and not to flurry and bluster. I think this day has not been quite so idle, and I hope in a little degree I may have done well. I put some things in proper order, read history and grammar, wrote letters and worked. I feel in rather a flat, silent state of mind. May I be thankful that opportunity is offered me to spend my time in doing something. May pride and vanity be cast far from me. May doing Thy will, be my constant object, oh God! I see Thee not for Thou art invisible, yet I have reason to believe, I am not invisible to Thee; therefore look upon my weakness with pity, and deign to strengthen my lukewarm faith.

26th.—I am rather in a volatile mind this morning, and that state which requires care. I still feel as if I could not act really and minutely well; a sort of lukewarmness that leads to forgetfulness; and a flying off from the centre in my inmost heart. But weak as I am, if I exert my powers, and in times of need pray for more, and try to turn out worldly ideas, till I receive strength by waiting in stillness upon God; to let His will be done in me; I then shall find if the arm of the Lord be sufficient for me. But I feel and know it is much easier to write than practise; for it is hard, a very hard matter, to wait quietly upon God;

it is for the time, giving up the world to follow Him. For though I seldom or ever have found more than darkness in my own endeavours to wait, (and how seldom I do it?) yet remember, "Ask and it shall be given thee, seek and thou shalt find, knock and it shall be opened unto thee." If I continue steady in seeking, and will try and pray to seek more and more, the day will come when I shall find; let me remember this. I believe at times the door has been in mercy opened, when at the moment I have not been knocking, for I have now and then tasted the beauties of holiness; but it appears as if it had mostly been through others, or with others, I have felt it. But how humbly thankful should my soul be, that my path of conduct has so far been shown me, when I have sought after it, and that I have had my eyes anointed to see the difference of right and wrong in my conduct; that, perhaps, is enough for me for the present; may I be sufficiently thankful for it, for does it not show that the Most High has not forsaken me?

Eleventh Month, 17*th*.—In the evening, with my children, I had in some respects a very comfortable time; it was at least my wish to act right with them. In part of one of the chapters, I seemed carried through to explain something to them in a way I hardly ever did before. It was striking the difference in my power this evening, and this day week. This day week I tried and tried to explain, and the more I tried the more I seemed to blunder; and this evening I was determined not to attempt it, unless I felt capable, and that I did, suddenly and unexpectedly to myself; I had a flow of ideas come one after another, in a sweet and refreshing way. The rest of the evening was principally spent with Hannah Scarnell, talking about my poor mother, who died this day seven years.

26*th*.—Towards the latter end of yesterday evening I had some uncomfortable mental feelings, and this morning they really amounted to pain of mind. I believe they were deep and inward temptations of the imagination; silent waiting upon God seemed my only resource, and it was difficult to do so; it was like a trial in my mind between the two powers. My imagination, I think, was partly set at work by being nervous, rather more so than usual: and it requires spiritual strength to overcome the painful workings of a nervous imagination. There are few temptations, I believe, so hard to overcome, as those that try to put on the appearance of duties. They are willing to represent the spirit of truth in our hearts ; at such times before I act, try quietly to wait upon God ; look to Him for help, and when things at all appear in the light of duties, the thought of which produces agony to the soul, it requires much deliberation before we act.

Twelfth Month, 11th.—In the afternoon I was rather industrious. I was uncertain whether to go to the Grove or not, but at last I fixed to go. In going there, I observed the sweet states I had experienced for being obedient. My path seemed clear, and my heart acknowledged, " I have sought, and have found, I have knocked and it has been opened unto me ;" it also appeared to me in how beautiful a manner things work together for good. After all this, again, Myself got the victory, and I came home with a degree of remorse, for saying upon some subjects more than I should have said ; how great a virtue is silence, properly attended to !

At this time, Elizabeth Gurney wore the cap and close handkerchief of Friends, and with the dress, had adopted their other peculiarities ; this added to her comfort, and spared her many difficulties. Of their principles she had been long convinced, and had deliberately chosen Quakerism as the future religion of her life.

Her mind being thus established on matters of the first importance, was better prepared to entertain a subject which now claimed her consideration. Proposals of marriage from Mr. Joseph Fry : at that time engaged with his brother Mr. William Fry, in extensive business in London. Her timid sensitive nature shrunk at first from so momentous a question, and for a time she seemed unable or unwilling to encounter the responsibility. Gradually, with individual preference, her mind opened to the suitability of the connexion. Her habits and education had rendered affluence almost essential to her comfort ; whilst entering

Mr. Fry's family, and the prospect of residing among Friends, offered great and strong inducements to her feelings. Her anxious desire to be rightly guided in her decision, is marked in the following letter to her cousin, Joseph Gurney Bevan. He was to her a kind relative, and wise counsellor; he had been the chosen associate of her father's early manhood, and the friend of his mature years. Being himself a decided Friend, he was the better able to enter into the peculiar circumstances of Elizabeth Gurney, and the difficulties she had to encounter.

Twelfth Month, 12th.—I believe the true state of my mind is as follows. I have almost ever since I have been a little under the influence of religion, thought marriage at this time was not a good thing for me; as it might lead my interests and affections from that Source in which they should be centred, and also, if I have any active duties to perform in the church, if I really follow as far as I am able the voice of Truth in my heart; are they not rather incompatible with the duties of a wife and a mother? And is it not safest to wait and see what is the probable course I shall take in this life, before I enter into any engagement that affects my future career? So I think, and so I have thought. But to look on the other side. If Truth appears to tell me I may marry, I should leave the rest, and hope whatsoever my duties are, I shall be able to perform them; but it is now at this time the prayer of my heart, that if I ever should be a mother, I may rest with my children, and really find my duties lead me to them and my husband; and if my duty ever leads me from my family, that it may be in single life. I must leave all to the wisdom of a superior Power, and in humble confidence pray for assistance both now and for evermore, in performing His will.

Clapham, *Fourth Month,* 1800.

My dearest Cousin,

It is not pleasant to me, having a subject that now is of no small importance to me, unknown to thee, for I feel thee to be, and love thee as my kind friend. Some time ago, Joseph

Fry, youngest son of William Storrs Fry of London, paid us a visit at Earlham, and made me an offer of marriage. Since our stay in this neighbourhood, he has renewed his addresses. I have had many doubts, many risings and fallings about the affair. My most anxious wish is, that I may not hinder my spiritual welfare, which I have so much feared, as to make me often doubt if marriage were a desirable thing for me at this time, or even the thoughts of it; but as I wish (at least I think I wish), in this as in other things, beyond every thing else to do the will of God, I hope that I shall be shown the path right for me to walk in. I do not think, I could have refused him with a proper authority, at this time. If I am to marry before very long, it overturns my theories, and may teach me that the ways of the Lord are unsearchable; and that I am not to draw out a path of right for myself, but to look to the One who only knows what is really good for me; but the idea of leaving my station at home is to me surprising, as I had not thought that it would have been the case, and perhaps it may not now happen, but it does not seem improbable. How anxiously do I desire I may through all, strive after the knowledge of God, and one day, if it be right, obtain it. Excuse this hasty scrawl, and believe me, my dear cousin, thy very affectionate,

E. GURNEY.

First Month 1st, 1800.—This has not been one of the clear and bright days of life: little has been done, and that little as in a nightmare; not feeling able to get forward, and discouraged. None but one Being knows how I spend my time, and how little I really do in the service of God; but I cannot quite judge myself, and I feel I have complained too much to-day of the burdens of life to other people. My uncle Joseph was here, and I felt my own weakness by his side. I had my children, and found them a great burden; at least I thought that I was making more show than reality. So are my down sittings and my uprisings. Have mercy on me, if Thou existest, oh God! forsake not one who does wish to trust in Thee, and be Thy servant in the way Thou mayst see meet for her.

7th.—This morning, at Meeting, I had rather a trying time in some respects, at least I fully felt the disobedient state of my own heart. I think, as far as I can judge from past experience, my feelings were not those of imagination. I felt, supposing it was my duty to speak in that Meeting, what would it not be to me? and I don't think I felt perfectly clear of that awful duty; not that I now believe it will be at this time required of me, but it appears to me a devotion of heart that I must try to attain; or else my lamp will not be prepared, that I may go when my Master calleth. I have felt, and still feel, "I cannot do it," when required of me. Almost as much as that: though I yet believe, if I were sure it was required by God, it should be done, if I had power; but in our present state of weakness, we are to see so far and no farther, and we can only act as far as we, in our great weakness, think is the best way for us. My faith is as a grain of mustard-seed. But we may all judge from experience; and I think I may truly say, that when I have followed the direction of this Voice in my heart, (those feelings that may be enthusiasm or what else) yet I never have failed to feel content in doing so; even to be amply rewarded, and never to have repented following its dictates, but the more I have been wholly and humbly given up to obey, the more I have found my foundation a stable one; and trying as it has been sometimes, yet after I have gone through the trial, reason and inclination and all have applauded. But reason and inclination often leave us in the day of trouble. However, to go on with my tale. I continued most of the Meeting in this state, not clear of this awful duty, and yet by no means seeing it right to act; but as for that, I believe I would hardly let it come into my mind, and in my thoughts; I wished William Crow to preach, as I do sometimes, and when he rose my heart seemed to feel, it was right for him to do so. He began to speak of the state of some one present, and did take me surprisingly home to mine; he mentioned how the ministry had come before that mind; but seemed to think it was not an immediate duty, but was to be tried. So I leave it. I am unwilling to think any thing of the kind would be at present required of me. I believe it would be a greater trial than I can describe, my whole appearance being so different from those who are generally ministers among us. But yet I hope if ever duty really requires it of me I may do it, let it be early or late.

At this time she thus writes to a young Friend:—

True religion seems a subject of that great importance, that we must not play with it, either mentally or in word; perhaps thou wilt think it odd, but at seasons I am not a friend to too many religious thoughts; for thoughts are apt to wander, and border on imagination. Religion is a deep inward working of the feelings, and of the heart; we must not look too much for bright light on the surface of things, but we must humbly and quietly try to seek deep; attending to the day of small things, trying to be faithful in the little, or we cannot expect to be rulers over more. Seek for these little feelings of the heart; watch that thou mayst know truly the voice of thy Shepherd. I feel this advice may be received by us both; I cannot tell how thou findest it, but this voice has at times led me into trials; but where I have followed, truly I may say I have had my reward; where I have not, then I have felt the good part within me weakened. I believe our temptations may be different, but the deeper I dig in my own mind, the clearer I see how I am surrounded with them; I can hardly bear to feel them, and to observe them; but that light which I deeply sought has shown me the danger; and as a friend of mine wrote to me the other day, "in vain is the snare laid in the sight of the bird." By thus seeking, may we truly find the road that leadeth unto salvation. Fare thee well!

Second Month, 9th.—In the evening, my father brought two friends with him and Lawrence Candler. As I was reading to my children in the laundry, my father brought them all in; when I had finished reading in the Testament we were all silent, and soon John Kirkham knelt down in prayer and we all rose up; it was a very solemn time; my heart was not much moved, but I believe many of my dear children were much affected by it; he then preached to them, and it was surprising to me to see how much it seems the same spirit that works in all; and how solemn a thing it is to preach and pray only from authority, and how very different an effect it has on the mind to other advice; however, it was an encouraging thing, and I hope it will not be passed over by me or the children.

11*th.*—How much I wished, almost prayed, I may one day be a perfect sacrifice, wholly given up to the service of God.

18*th.*—Time will tell, if what "Friends" have told me will be true, that I shall one day be different from what I am; indeed, taste of the beautiful comfort and support of true religion, and not only receive myself, but be an instrument in giving to others; and that my own beloved family will feel support in me, and in a degree do as I may have done, or that my principles will spread. None but One knows my heart, and my most deep wishes, nay, I may almost say prayers, that I may, in whatever way it may be, do to my utmost the will of God; may I not faint in the day of trial and tribulation; and may self not be exalted in the day of prosperity.

Fifth Month, 30*th.*—I have written lately many melancholy journals, and I seem rather inclined this morning gratefully to mention the calm and sweet state I feel in. Even if the feelings be but for this time, it is a blessing to have them. My feelings towards Joseph are so calm and pleasant, and I can look forward with so much cheerfulness to a connexion with him.

Sixth Month, 6*th.*—I felt rather nervous and weak this morning. I wrote to Eliza Fry, and worked and talked. I might talk too much. I received a letter I liked from Joseph, and answered it this afternoon. I felt unwilling to represent my own faults to him, although I told him how faulty I was, yet it is much more unpleasant to acknowledge any real fault committed, than the natural inclination to faults. Christiana Gurney has a droll effect upon me, and leads me to feel as if she thought me a lukewarm Quaker. I believe I am so, in some respects; because, deeply interested as I am in the Society, and much as I approve some of its scruples, yet my limits are great, and I do not feel little scruples of that importance some other persons do.

9*th.*—I have been busy to-day without doing much. They all went out about twelve. I then put my poor people's things in a little order, and cut out linen till dinner, and from dinner till tea. I am slow in what I do. I have thought seriously upon becoming mistress of a house. I look in that, as in other things, that principle may be my support, for it leads and supports in the smallest occurrences of life. The preparations of clothing, &c., &c., as they lead me into the little things for which I have a taste, if I do not take care may hurt me, and yet they are both pleasant and interesting to me.

17th.—My state is a truly comfortable one this morning, such peace of mind and body. I seem to have at present no cloud over me—so calm, so easy—partly owing to having lately felt so much bodily pain, ease and rest are peculiarly pleasant; let it be an encouragement to me, next time pain or sorrow surround me, that even when heavily clouded, the sun may not be far off; may enjoying this sort of peace lead me to long for a more durable and lasting one, and may it stimulate me with more vigour to seek after it, by more frequent patient waiting upon God, and may I experience an increasing willingness to take up the cross when called to do so.

Eighth Month, 4th.—This has been a comfortable day to me. I have been busy, and a little gone on in my old plans; I have great hopes of leaving all things in good order, which is a relief to me. It is a blessing indeed to feel thus healthy in mind and body; for I think we are subject to mental diseases, that are not in our power any more than bodily ones, and that require our patience; although it is our duty in both mental and bodily maladies, to do our utmost to overcome them.

13th.—This morning the Fellowe's were here; nothing particular happened till evening, when all my poor children came; it was rather a melancholy time to me. After having enjoyed themselves with playing about, I took them to the summer-house and bade them farewell; there were about eighty-six of them, many of them wept; I felt rather coldly when with them, but when they went away, I shed my tears also; and then my desires took the turn of anxiously longing for the spiritual welfare of all of us, as a family.

CHAPTER V.

1800—1809. Marriage—First visit to Plashet—Settlement in London—Letter to a Friend—Yearly Meeting—Birth of eldest child, 1801—Journey into the North of England—Second daughter, born 1803—Birth of eldest son, 1804; illness and journey to Bath—Her second son, born 1806—Death of her mother-in-law—Birth of her fifth child, 1808—Letter to Mr. and Mrs. John Gurney—Death of her sister, Mrs. John Gurney—The Rev. Edward Edwards—Death of her father-in-law.

THE marriage of Joseph Fry and Elizabeth Gurney took place on the 19th of August, 1800, at the Friends' Meeting House in Norwich; her own description of the day is:—

I awoke in a sort of terror at the prospect before me, but soon gained quietness and something of cheerfulness; after dressing we set off for Meeting; I was altogether comfortable. The Meeting was crowded; I felt serious, and looking in measure to the only sure place for support. It was to me a truly solemn time; I felt every word, and not only felt, but in my manner of speaking expressed how I felt; Joseph also spoke well. Most solemn it truly was. After we sat silent some little time, Sarah Chandler knelt down in prayer, my heart prayed with her. I believe words are inadequate to describe the feelings on such an occasion; I wept good part of the time, and my beloved father seemed as much overcome as I was. The day passed off well, and I think I was very comfortably supported under it, although cold hands and a beating heart were often my lot.

Leaving the home of her childhood was a great effort to her. Driving through Norwich for the last time, "the very stones of the street seemed dear" to her. On the 31st of the same month, she says:—

We arrived at Plashet about three o'clock; it was strange to me. I was much pleased with the place, and admired the kindness of its inhabitants.

Her home, however, was for some years to be in scenes far less congenial to her early habits, than Plashet House, in Essex; then, the residence of her husband's parents. It was a much more prevailing custom in that day, than it is now, for the junior partner to reside in the house of business. In conformity with which Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Fry prepared to establish themselves in St. Mildred's Court, in the city of London. The house was large, airy, commodious, and what in the city is a still more rare advantage, quiet; and continued to be an occasional residence of different members of the family, till it was pulled down in consequence of alterations in London.

Elizabeth Fry was, by her marriage, brought into completely new circumstances; her husband's family had been members of the Society of Friends, since an early period after its foundation. In this, it resembled her own; but unlike her own parents, her father and mother-in-law, were "plain and consistent Friends;" she was surrounded by a large circle of new connexions and acquaintance, who differed from her own early associates, in being almost exclusively strict Friends. Thus she found herself the "gay, instead of the plain and scrupulous one of the family." This for a time brought her into occasional difficulty and trial. She often painfully felt the incongruity of the parties assembled at her house, formed of her own family and nearest connexions, whom she so tenderly loved, and those with whom she was in strict religious communion, but whose habits and sentiments differed from theirs; and she feared for herself, lest in the desire to please all, she should in any degree swerve from the line of conduct she believed right for herself.

George Dilwyn, from Philadelphia, a Friend engaged in religious service in London, became their guest, on the 7th of

November, only a week after the young married pair had arrived at their home; he remained with them upwards of a month, and his company appears to have been useful and agreeable to them; although his presence brought the bride into difficulty, on a point that at the present time seems almost inconceivable, that of reading the Holy Scriptures aloud in the morning. Family devotion, amongst all persuasions, was much less common at that period than it is now; and the habit of assembling the household at a stated hour daily, for domestic worship, was almost unknown. Mr. and Mrs. Fry's servants were not partakers of this privilege, except on Sunday evenings, until some years after their marriage.

Plashet, Ninth Month, 8th.—From continued change of scene, and the great deal that I am obliged to talk, I seem of late to be continually letting out, and taking nothing in; of course much weakened by it.

28*th.*—I had rather a serious evening Meeting. I first wept, I believe, with thinking of them at home; however, I afterwards began to pray as far as my weak spirit could, for I am weak indeed, and even my good wishes are so surrounded with worldly inclinations, that it seems to require much strength to get through; and my faith is weak, and without faith it is a hard matter to act, but I believe I may find enough for action, if I will seek for it.

Tenth Month, 3rd.—I went to town this morning, and walked about some time, ordering plate, &c., &c. My inclination is to have every thing very handsome, but I do not think it right to have things merely for ornament, unless there be some use attached to them.

5*th.*—I do not remember ever wishing for worldly good of any kind, as I have for spiritual; but actions show how much the love of the world still remains; indeed, I seem chained down to the world and worldly things, and my habitation seems in the dust. May it ever rise higher.

Earlham, 8th.—Here I am once more sitting in the music-room, writing my journal; how often I have written it here, and with how many feelings!

St. Mildred's Court, 30th.—After breakfast, my husband and I set off from Plashet in my father's coach with nurse Barns, for Mildred's Court. I felt rather low at the prospect before me, and more so when I saw the state of the house; confusion in every part. I had a bed-room turned into a sitting-room, put in order, and then went and put myself in order for dinner; our brother William dined with us. I spent rather a pleasant afternoon, which is to me quite a rarity. Joseph and I had a comfortable evening. Both I believe feeling the true comfort, I may say blessing, of being at last quiet in our own house. All seemed to shine upon us. May we mutually endeavour to hold all in subservience to that Being, to whom all our thoughts, wishes, and actions, are known. I sometimes feel the self-interestedness of wishing to be good, for after all what earthly enjoyment is like it? may we not stop short in our career, but try to run the race that is set before us.

Eleventh Month, 7th.—George Dilwyn came to-day; I feel almost overcome with my own weakness, when with such people.

11*th.*—After breakfast, I believed it better to propose reading in the Bible, but I felt doing it, particularly as my brother William was here; not liking the appearance of young people, like us, appearing to profess more than they who had lived here before us. However I put off and put off till both William and Joseph went down; I then felt uneasy under it, and when Joseph came back I told him, as I did before, what I wished; he at last sat down, having told George Dilwyn my desire. I began to read the 46th Psalm, but was so overcome that I could hardly read, and gave it to Joseph to finish.

12*th.*—I rather felt this morning it would have been right for me to read the Bible again, and stop George Dilwyn and Joseph reading something else. Now stopping G. D. was a difficult thing; for a person like me to remind him! however, I did not fully do as I thought right, for I did not openly tell G. D. we were going to read, but spoke to my husband, so as for him to hear; then he read, I knowing I had not done my best.

14*th.*—I again felt some difficulty at reading the Bible, however, I got through well. George Dilwyn encouraging me, by saying, he thought I portioned the reading well. After a little bustling we set off for Hampstead. I was there told by ——, he thought my manners had too much of the courtier in them, which I know to be the case, for my disposition leads me to hurt no one, that I can avoid: and I do sometimes but just keep to truth with people, from a natural yielding to them in such things as please them. I think doing so in moderation, is pleasant and useful in society. It is amongst the things that produce the harmony of society: for the truth must not be spoken out at all times, at least not the whole truth. I will give an instance of what I mean. Suppose any one was to show me the colour of a room, that I thought pretty, I should say so, although I thought others more so, and omit saying that; perhaps I am wrong, I do not know if I be not, but it will not always do to tell our minds. This I have observed, and I am sorry for it, that I feel it hard when duty dictates to do what I think may hurt others. I believe this feeling of mine originates in self-love, from the dislike of being myself the cause of pain and uneasiness.

15*th.*—George Dilwyn said, for our encouragement this morning, that he had seen, since he had been with us, the efficacy of reading in the Bible the first thing, he thought it a good beginning for the day.

19*th.*—Dear Kitty and Priscilla came this afternoon; I felt a good deal at seeing them. How dear they are to me! George Dilwyn came home this evening; and it was rather odd, but we fell into unusually interesting conversation.

22*nd.*—I think I have tried to do better to-day, and a bad cold has prevented my saying much, which is so often a stumbling-block, for that little member, the tongue, is very hard to command; until the root be mended, I cannot expect the branches to flourish, or to bring forth much fruit. Thoughts, words and actions, appear to spring from a corrupt source. I feel my sisters a lesson to me, they seem so much more virtuous.

Twelfth Month, 1*st.*—We dined at the Barclays to-day; I felt it pleasant being at Clapham, although the change of society I have, is at times a trial; it requires much strength to be on one's guard.

5*th.*—To-day, we had the W——s and C——s to dinner.

We provided handsomely, but I much disapprove of a luxurious table; as superfluity at table appears to me as bad, if not worse, than in other things.

8*th*.—I value being alone with my husband; it is a quiet I have not lately enjoyed, and it does seem to me, at this time, one of the great blessings of life: talking of blessings, am I not ungrateful, when thus surrounded with them, to be wishing for more? it is a pity!

9*th*.—Anna Savery drank tea here; we had not sat long after tea before we fell into silence. During the time, I first felt a sort of anxiety for the welfare of us young travellers, and it came strongly across my mind, Is it not my duty openly to express it? this put me into an agitation not easily to be described; and I continued in this state, which was a truly painful one, nearly feeling it my duty to pray aloud for us; oh, how hard it did seem! I tried to run from it, but I found the most safety in trying to wait upon God; hoping, if it were imagination, to overcome it; if it were duty, that I might be obedient. Towards the latter end, I felt more inclined towards obedience. But what an obstacle is my not holding my will in subserviency to that of my Maker; for perhaps after all it was only a trial of my obedience, that would not have been called for, but to show me how far I was from a resigned state of heart. I felt oppressed the rest of the evening.

10*th*.—I awoke in a burdened state of mind; I thought it better to relieve it to my dear husband, and found comfort in doing so; he warned me against imagination. I must try to trust in the Lord, and I hope to find safety. I felt quite in a state of agitation till we went to Meeting; it made me feel almost ill in body, both last night and this morning; however, my mind was sweetly calmed in the Meeting, and I felt vastly relieved from my terrors, and a little love and trusting in the Heavenly Master. I was almost ready to do whatever might be right for me. Oh! may I give up to what is called for at my hand, and may I not be deceived, but follow the true Shepherd, for my feet seem much inclined to wander!

14*th*.—I attended both Meetings as usual, and as usual I came from them, flat and discouraged. To attend our place of worship and there spend almost all the time in worldly thoughts, is, I fear, too great a mark of how my time is mostly spent; indeed, my life appears at this time to be spent to little more purpose than eating, drinking, sleeping, and clothing myself. But if we analyze the employment of most, what do they more than in some way attend to the bodily wants of themselves or others? What is our work, the good we do to the poor, &c., &c., but for the body!

In reply to the letter of a Friend, Elizabeth Fry at this period thus describes her own state of mind and anxiety for spiritual advance:—

Mildred's Court, *First Month*, 1801.

In referring to thy former letter, I remembered thou there hailed me as a fellow-traveller towards a better country; and I remember feeling encouragement from it: I am doubtful how far thou couldest now do so, but I trust, although I see little and feel hardly any thing of good in my own mind, that I am not yet quite forsaken as one dead to good works. I am at times ready to feel, what shall I do? for if I were sure this state was out of my own power, I need only quietly rest, hoping for better times; but my fear is, that, from want of more watchfulness, I am so continually devoted to things of this world, as to blind my spiritual sight from observing things belonging to the other. There are times when my anxiety for good is great indeed, and for a short time, it is my endeavour to seek strength where I hope to find it; but alas! my good wishes and good endeavours are of short, very short duration. I often remember that part of Scripture (more particularly at Meeting) where our Saviour says to Simon, "Couldest thou not watch with me one hour?" I feel able to draw some consolation from what I here read, when I see that others so great and good have found it hard to do so; but I experience the force of the question. I have at times great fears that I may be led astray in matters of the first importance, for there is a power that will at times deceive the unwary mind, for we may remember it can even put on the appearance of an angel of light. It was my lot, in very early life, to be much in company with Deists, and to be rather a warm advocate for their doctrines. I now in many shapes feel myself touched with these early imbibed opinions: for it appears to me that, unless I be, by a very superior power, really lifted above these opinions, my poor weak nature is apt to doubt almost every thing. How poor is the enjoyment, how dark is our prospect, when the enlightening rays of true religion are taken from us! I did not expect thus to have opened my heart to thee, but one thing led on to another. I now and then remember a remark of thine, that thou believed a soul was still living to that which is good, whilst it partook of that unity that the poor travellers Zionward are favoured to feel towards each other; I have sometimes hoped, when thinking of it, that I am not yet quite dead to such things; as I feel my heart nearly drawn towards some of those whom I believe to be truly making progress in this blessed journey, and while I at times so peculiarly love the disciple, I hope I am not an enemy to the Master.

First Month, 11th, 1801.—I attended both Meetings; what wishes I had at moments for good! and how surprisingly ineffectual they were!

15*th.*—I set off early for Newington, to see J. G. Bevan, who I heard was poorly. I think my visit answered. I met with a very kind reception, and he appeared pleased to see me. He proposed to me reading with the family on First-day evening; which is what I have often thought of, but do not wish to practise until my husband and I are unitedly clearer on the subject.

Second Month, 3rd.—This morning, after writing notes, &c., &c., I walked out and went to see a poor woman who I half like and half do not, as there is something in her very odd; however, I spent much time about her. I then read the letters from home, which were comfortable and satisfactory. I was just dressed for company; we had a rather pleasant visit, but I think of late I more and more dislike society of every kind, I really wish for a more retired life; my present constant liability to company seems too much for my weak mind.

4*th.*— I went to Meeting as usual: Sarah Lines mentioned to the Meeting the manner in which she had accomplished her late journey, and the feelings of reward she experienced; her account struck me very much; her influence was, on me at least, truly pleasant and satisfactory. She afterwards named her concern to visit some Meetings in the City of London, which was also done with remarkable simplicity, and I may say, almost humility. I longed for her continued good, and almost prayed she might be kept in a state of humility. For striking is it how liable, at all stages, we are to fall. I almost longed for the good of the religious, as of some far distant from me. Before the Monthly Meeting finished, Mary Bevan got up and addressed herself to the young women, saying we were not to be discouraged at not being called like her (Sarah Lines), but that all who endeavoured to perform their duty, should and would equally meet with their reward. I felt much, and longed for good. I think myself at this time on rather dangerous ground, for retirement of mind, or that necessary watchfulness which keeps us poor mortals out of danger, is what I am nearly a stranger to; and in the state of deadness to religion, that has lately been my experience, I am also tried by great fears about what duty may call me to. If these be fears of my own imagination, how much is truth wanted to overcome them. Seek, seek, until I find, and do not give up till the last!

Third Month, 15*th*.—I felt really better this morning (alluding to previous indisposition) and went to Meeting, but all my small efforts to quiet my thoughts were ineffectual; the same in the afternoon; it is very serious. Really when I awake in the morning I feel a flatness; when I find my great object of the day no longer appears to be even to wish to do the will of my Creator. But I am as one who has in some measure lost his pilot, and is tossed about by the waves of the world. But I trust that there is yet a power that will prevent my drowning; I draw some consolation from my dreams of old, for how often was I near drowning, and yet at last saved!

17*th*.—Mary Ann Galton arrived to-day, every room in our house was full, and altogether, with the tooth-ache, I have hardly had spirit to go through it comfortably.

18*th*.—We had a large dinner-party; I felt unusually poorly and nervous at dinner, being fagged with tooth-ache and the numbers around me.

21*st.*—This morning I proposed to my father to take us to Richmond Hill, as we had never been there. After some doubting we agreed to go, and we set off; before we left London it rained violently, but we persevered, I was fully of the mind it was better to do so; but hardly expressed it enough, for I make myself appear almost weak by my fear of other people. I feel with my father almost always a difficulty in boldly doing what I think right. One great pleasure in the day has been being so much with him, and I have quite enjoyed his company. The views and country were delightful; it appeared to do me good once more to look at the beauties of nature, and to see the little lambs and all was very pleasant.

25*th.*—I feel almost overcome with the multiplicity of visitings and goings out.

Fourth Month, 9*th.*—We set off this morning on our journey to Norfolk. I felt leaving my dearest husband. The beauties of nature were striking—violets and primroses quite decorated the hedges.

Fifth Month, 8*th.*—Of late I have been cumbered with the little things in life that are not worth being worried about.

I have fixed dinners for the Yearly Meeting with Jane King.

During the fortnight occupied by the Yearly Meeting, St. Mildred's Court was, according to a very general custom among the Society, an open house for the reception of the Friends assembled in London on that occasion, from all parts of the kingdom: some were inmates there during the time, whilst the parties at dinner were generally very numerous. A most curious remnant of a by-gone generation, was the appearance of the old and orthodox Friends in the early part of this century. The head-dress of the women often consisted of a plain cap, fitting closely to the head, and over this the black silk hood so well known in pictures, to which, when abroad, was added a low crowned broad beaver hat: the voluminous folds, long-peaked waists, and stiff formality of the drab-coloured camlet gowns, contrasting far more strangely with the light and classic draperies then worn, brought into vogue during the French Revolution, than they would have done with the modern-antique fashions now prevailing.

Fifth Month, 15*th*.—We went in the evening to see a Friend (Joseph Lancaster), who kept a school for poor children. I felt a wish that the young man might be preserved in humility; for I know, from experience, it is a hard matter, when we have the apparent approbation of many, and more particularly of those whom we esteem.

16*th*.—I was rather busy this morning. After dinner, our dear cousin Priscilla arrived, I felt seeing her, I love her very much: being with such, has a great effect on me, where they interest me as she does; but may I not be led by man, but by his Maker.

22*nd*.—They had a religious opportunity, they begin I think to lose their solemnity from their frequency.

27*th*.—I went to Gracechurch Street Meeting this morning, and to the Meeting of Discipline in the afternoon, which tired me.

29*th*.—After dinner, we attended our Women's Meeting, at four o'clock, which lasted till nearly eight o'clock, it was to me very long and very tedious; indeed it may be, and I doubt not is in great part my own weakness, but to hold fast my faith, I found in this Yearly Meeting, no instrument ought to be looked to. I am afresh come to this conclusion, that only the clear dictates of duty should lead us to act, even in matters of religion; that we should be very careful in expressing even a religious sentiment, without great clearness, and more particularly where others are concerned. How exceedingly cautiously should religious advice be given to others! it should not be done, without strong and clear feelings of duty, for I know from experience, such things are apt, even if they be given as encouragement, to discourage or weaken the feeble mind, if out of place; I believe it better to do too little than too much in them. Notwithstanding the many remarks that I have made, I trust I shall in the end be better for this time, for I have seen much to love and admire in the instruments, and I trust the principle is not weakened within me. May it lead me to seek deeply to serve my Maker in singleness of heart, for that appears the only way to rectitude of conduct;

and not to forget the numerous rocks there are to split upon, on every side. These observations should teach me the necessity of keeping a constant watch and dependence on my Creator.

Sixth Month, 5th.—I had most of this morning in quietness' which was quite a treat to me; I wrote my journal, settled my accounts, and was not destitute of a wish to do right: we had many to dinner, which rather vexed me, as I had set my mind on quiet.

15*th.*—If I can with truth acknowledge it to be my first wish to do my best, although I may not feel the sensible gratification of doing my duty, I may yet be really doing it. If I do all I can, I have no occasion to fear sooner or later meeting with my reward. I was rather disappointed at our having company, indeed we have now little time alone: it is quite a serious thing, our being so constantly liable to interruptions as we are. I do not think, since we married, we have had one fourth of our meals alone. I long for more retirement, but it appears out of our power to procure it; and therefore it is best to be as patient under interruptions as we can, but I think it a serious disadvantage to young people setting out in life.

Plashet, Seventh Month, 9th. We are so much from home and in such continual bustles, that really when I am here, I feel at a loss for regular employment. I just have time enough to keep things in order; engagement follows engagement so rapidly, day after day, week after week, owing principally to our number of near connexions, that we appear to live for others, rather than ourselves: our plan of sleeping out so often, I by no means like, and yet it appears impossible to prevent it; to spend one's life in visiting and being visited seems sad. Joseph Lancaster came in after breakfast, I had some talk with him about poor people; he enlightened me about his school plans, but not generally about the poor.

10*th.*—I had to fix with Jane King about the nursery, and to reprove a servant for something I did not approve, which kept me in a state of agitation for some time, it is so trying to me to reprove any one; it is so very trying to my natural disposition, partly I suppose from a feeling of self-love that does not like being the cause of pain; partly I suppose from feeling for others.

I mostly feel satisfaction when I take courage to act the mistress, as it is so much out of my nature.

11*th.*—It now and then strikes me to how little end are all these employments that occupy us; we seem principally occupied in clothing, feeding and taking care of our bodies, and yet I trust if even that be done in a right spirit, we still are doing our duty, and it is in these actions about our bodies that our minds and principles act also, if it be our object to do all things to the glory of God. But we are apt rather to do things in subserviency to our own will, rather than the will of our Maker; we therefore devote ourselves to these outward and bodily things. Now, when such things are done, which I believe they may be, under a devotional spirit, we are not injured by being occupied with such trifles.

Eighth Month, 5*th.*—I feel that when I do my part towards really performing my duty, it sheds a sweet and sober colouring over all my occupations; but when I do not, it appears to cast a mist that I am obliged to find my way as well as I can, without my guide.

15*th.*—I have had an interesting talk with my dear sister Rachel; she appears to me to have perceived that, which will direct her steps. But how hard it is deeply, strictly, and for a long time together, to have our first object to serve our Creator —for at first there is a natural glee, as for something new, and then we feel we have to pass through lukewarmness, which is a dangerous state; I believe one, where many are lost. May I be carried through it!

It is evident that the circumstances in which Elizabeth Fry was placed at St. Mildred's Court, were too fatiguing for her, then approaching her first confinement, so as to depress, not merely her bodily powers and her natural energy, but also in a degree her spiritual liveliness. In anticipation of this event, her active mind had already occupied itself in forming nursery arrangements.

Her eldest child was born in August, and to this event succeeded the pleasures and anxieties of a young mother; upon which no one could have entered with a more lively sense, either of their enjoyment or responsibility.

"My thoughts are now very often in my nursery, fixing plans for children. I am very full of castles about my good management; but all must be, should be, held in subserviency to a great and divine Power, who alone knows what is best for them and us; and it is to be hoped He will, in His mercy, guide the hands of the parents to lead them in the right path in every way. I am a great friend to close and constant attention to early education, even the very first years of a child's life."

Ninth Month, 12th.—I have hardly had time or strength as yet to describe the events I have lately passed through. I did not experience that joy some women describe when my husband first brought me my little babe, little darling! I hardly knew what I felt for it, but my body and spirits were so extremely weak, I could only just bear to look at those I loved. I felt the dear baby at first a quiet source of pleasure, but she early became a subject for my weakness and low spirits to dwell upon, so that I almost wept when she cried; but I hope, as bodily strength recovers strength of mind will come with it.

20th.—I have now pretty much recovered. I was at Meeting this morning; there appears great cause for my being thankful to have got through so great a trial, and to have a dear little living girl; but we are not always sensible of the blessings we enjoy.

23rd.—Certainly I am ignorant about the management of such young infants, but I do not feel uneasy about the charge of her body, from my self-confidence I fear; but I believe if we endeavour to do our duty, even in such things, we shall find the way. I much wish to avoid my mother-in-law's very "cotting" plan, for a degree of hardiness I think most desirable—I think being too careful and tender really makes them more subject to indisposition.

Tenth Month, 1st.—My present feelings for the babe are so acute as to render me at times unhappy, from an over anxiety about her, such an one, as I never felt before for any one. Now it appears to me, this over anxiety arises from extreme love, weak spirits and state of health, and not being under the influence of principle, that would lead me to overcome these natural feelings, as far as they tend to my misery. For if I were under the influence of principle, I might trust that my dear infant was indeed under the care and protection of an infinitely wise and just Providence, that permits her little sufferings for some good end, that I know not of. How anxiously do I hope this poor dear baby may be held in resignation by me to the Divine will. Oh! that I might feel dependence on that Almighty arm about her and about other things. Beyond every thing else, I wish to do my duty, idle and relaxed as I am, in performing it.

Mildred's Court, 10th.—I here sit hearing the great noise and bustle of the Illumination for Peace; my dearest babe is sleeping in the room; my husband and the rest of the party are gone out to see it. This evening I am very tired, and the noise of the mob nearly makes my head ache. This is the way in which they show their joy! it does not seem to me the right manner of showing our gratitude, as it appears to lead to drunkenness and vice. I think true gratitude should lead us to endeavour to retain the blessing, or to make good use of it by more virtue in ourselves, and encouraging others to the same.

Earlham, 21st.—We have had a comfortable journey, meeting them at Thetford was very pleasant, they appeared so delighted to see us. I altogether entered this place in much agitation, our reception was delightful; my father and all so much admire our little darling, and seemed to love her so dearly that it was delightful to me: it was indeed a striking sight to see them all meet her, so much real interest was shown. Yesterday I went once more to Norwich Meeting, my reception was very warm.

Mildred's Court, Eleventh Month, 25th.—My cough has been so poorly that my husband called in Dr. Simms. I asked his advice about our little one being inoculated, he strongly recommended the cow-pox, and said that he would undertake the care of her if we liked: I think highly of his judgment, and I believe it to be our duty to avoid evil, both bodily and mentally. So trifling a complaint as the cow-pox, being likely to prevent so dreadful a disease as the small-pox at least it appears justifiable to try it; although the idea is not pleasant, it almost looks like taking too much on ourselves to give a child a disease. But I altogether was easy to do it. I felt a good deal about the operation, which was very little and easily performed. What a wonderful discovery it is, if it really prevent the small-pox !

30*th.*—I went to see a poor woman, it is always a cross to me leaving my child, but going over the bridge I enjoy ; the air, sky and water look so sweetly.

Twelfth Month, 5th.—I was up in pretty good time, dressed by eight, and after reading, settled my great housekeeping accounts. I wrote to cousin Priscilla, my uncle Barclay and my father. This evening I feel very flat, rather in a low state, partly perhaps bodily weakness. I feel almost ready to pant after the courts of the Lord.

First Month, 26*th,* 1802.—It is more than a month since I wrote my journal ; I am sorry for it, but I have been Martha-like, and so much engrossed in the affairs of this life, that little time has been spent in reviewing my conduct ; indeed I appear very much to have taken my flight from spiritual things. It is not my feeling bereft of the comforts of religion that alarms me, it is my not sufficiently seeking after them I fear ; for I hardly ever am on the watch for the Master's coming. I may say my heart has now and then been full, almost to prayer, for my husband, child, and myself ; particularly for my little infant, that we may not prove stumbling-blocks in its way to salvation ; if it please God it should live to an age of understanding. I believe it would be better for me if I were in a more constant habit of daily retirement ; for it would afford me time for self-examination, which I am so unaccustomed to, and if I only sit quietly, I believe I may find it useful, although I feel of myself I can do nothing.

28*th.*—I do heartily enjoy our being alone, and falling into some plans, not being interrupted, I appear naturally to fall into employment ; and it is so sweet to have quiet plans at my own dear home. How much I think my marriage tends to my outward comfort ; it is wonderful to me to observe how every act of mine has prospered, that has been done under the anxious wish of serving my Creator in it.

Second Month, 13*th.*—My poor baby has been so poorly, that we took her to Dr. Willan's ; she has had a cough and is really unwell. I felt much tired and longed for resignation and patience.

20*th.*—I felt our dearest child in great danger, as did many besides me, indeed I believe all of us. This was indeed a trial, but I was supported with some resignation of soul, feeling the weight of that part of the prayer, "Thy will and not mine be done."

21*st.*—As the morning advanced, my little infant began to change from a very feverish state to an almost deadly languid one, that I believe most present, thought might be the beginning of a more awful change. She sat on my lap, I happened to be also very faint at the time; I think I may say, I felt resigned to the all-wise dispensations of Providence, which was a great blessing; my mind felt depending on that Power that alone can support in the day of trial. I desire to feel that of myself I can do nothing, and that I may remember the blessing of being able to say, "Thy will and not mine be done."

23*rd.*—Our little one appears mending, although very poorly, faint, and weak: her recovery seems more than I can enter into at present with a joyful heart. But I feel rather as if quietly waiting for the will of her Maker to be done. Some would perhaps call me insensible to the blessing. May I continue to look to the all merciful fountain of Good, and hold my submission to His will, and properly estimate the numerous blessings afforded me: and may I be thankful for my little one. My prayer seems to have been heard, that whether she lived or died she might not suffer very much.

Fourth Month, 19*th.*—Oh! may my obedience keep pace with my knowledge, at this time; my knowledge of good appears small; my longings to be better are only known by a Superior Power, who I trust will in time have mercy on me. I have this day prayed, that in this day of darkness I may not prove an obstruction in the way of others; truly a South Land is my portion, I only long for the wells of living water.

Fifth Month, 18*th.*—The sight of my uncle Joseph this morning rejoiced me; he is to me, in every point of view, so dear, I love him as a religious character, and as my near and dear relation. We had many friends to dinner and many to supper.

19*th.*—This day Yearly Meeting began generally. I was in my usual lukewarm flat state, full of the wanderings of imagination; but I believe, as a spectator, Meetings were more satisfactory than last year. We had a very large number to dinner.

31*st.*—Yearly Meeting is now, I am happy to say, finished. I attended all the Meetings but one. In some of them I was much more interested than last year, and felt for the interest of the Society. We have seen a good deal of Friends, and I think I admire them more than I did last year. I have had a few more serious feelings than usual, I have been always devoted to the world, except now and then, when my heart has anxiously hoped for something better. I have felt very much how we are all surrounded with continual temptations, and how very hard it is to hold fast that which is good; I see so many faults in myself, that I fear there are many I know nothing of, from not sufficiently seeking for them; for I observe faults in others who are better than myself, that I believe they know nothing of.

Earlham, Sixth Month, 7th.—I have felt and enjoyed the beauties of nature; I am so unused to quiet time, I hardly know how to spend it to advantage. I have feared they would think me trifling in my pursuits, I read so much less than they do.

Mildred's Court, Eighth Month, 19*th.*—To-day we have been married two years: time slips through quickly, trials and pleasures before unknown, have indeed been felt by me, trials and joys of many kinds. The love of a husband, the unity experienced; the love of a child, the maternal feelings, when under subordination, are real and great sources of enjoyment, they are apt to occupy the mind perhaps too much. My family is to me in more comfortable order than it was, at least I feel more mistress of it. My forgetfulness I find a material hindrance to me in many such concerns. In the afternoon, I was a good deal with my dearest Joseph.

Ninth Month, 11*th.*—In the evening my husband and I went to Vauxhall, to see a person who sent to beg of us, and to my surprise, found her dress, house, and furniture, almost like a gentlewoman's. Beggars of this sort I cannot understand, not being accustomed to them: they are people difficult to serve, as they ask to so large an amount. Now this person wants £30, to clear her only of debt; and I have other reasons for not wishing to have too much to do with them, they live so far off. We went and returned by water.

13*th.*—I had a very interrupted morning. In the afternoon, I went to see after a poor woman, and also to get a place for the little black girl, which took me some time, so that I was out till late.

At this time, Elizabeth Fry took a long journey into the North of England with her husband; a few entries respecting it are presented to the reader.

Coventry, Tenth Month, 2nd.—We were up in good time, and went to see Shakspeare's monument, at Stratford-upon-Avon; a sweet country churchyard; in the Church we saw the monument. We breakfasted at Warwick, and saw the Castle and Church; the outside of the Castle I liked very much, the inside pretty well. We are at an unpleasant inn here; but I have learnt one lesson—that I do not think in travelling we are sufficiently cautious in our behaviour to inn servants, but hurry them and worry them too much: I hope to be more cautious in future I went to see D—— L—— and his wife, and by accident went to the wrong house; I made several droll blunders, and became confused.

Wolverhampton, 6th.—During our journey here, I was very low and anxious on account of our little baby, who appeared so uneasy, and in much pain. She seemed suddenly really unwell. I wish my heart not to be too much set on her or her health; for I should endeavour to remember, she is taken care of by One infinitely wiser than I am. All medicine, gum-lancing, &c., is one of my trials, for I do not like or approve putting children to unnecessary pain, unless I have good ground for believing it right to do it; and yet I fear my cowardice improperly preventing my doing it.

Colebrook Dale, Tenth Month, 7th.—We had an early tea at Shifnal, a nice place, and then went forward to the Dale. The thoughts of going there were strange, after having felt so much as I had before at that place.

Rock Ferry, 10th.—We admired Chester, the town is so extraordinary; from the walks on the walls the country is beautiful. We could not prudently go over to Liverpool on account of the rain, therefore we remained here, which I believe we all enjoyed; the quiet within was so pleasant, when the storms without were so violent, and I enjoyed my beloved husband's company; what earthly pleasure is equal to the enjoyment of real unity with the nearest of all ties, husband and children.

Liverpool, 12*th*.—Our patience was rather tried, by waiting from breakfast time till twelve o'clock, for a passage over. My fears of the water are surprisingly gone off, I hardly felt any fear, although the wind was high and we sailed. I believe as we grow older, and have greater and more serious things to occupy us, those little feelings go off; I do not think I am nearly such a coward about some little things, as I was before I married.

Manchester, 17*th*.—We drank tea at John Thorp's; I really admire and love that man, I think we seldom see so much of good, united with a cultivated understanding, and the sweet simplicity of religion, as in him. I long for help to penetrate the clouds that surround me, for I feel that of myself I can do nothing.

Keswick, 25*th*.—This morning we went in the rain to see a very fine waterfall, it was a grand and beautiful sight; but I do not much like this country, at this time of the year, it looks so barren and dreary. This evening I went with Joseph on horseback to see some fine waterfalls. There is too much water in this place, and about here, to please my taste, too much lake, and too much of barren mountain; too little snugness, and too few fine trees.

26*th*.—This would have appeared to me some time ago, rather a fearful day; we first took a long ride, part of it over rather frightful roads, on the edge of a precipice, without any wall or guard to it. This evening, my husband and I climbed Skiddaw, when we arrived at the top, after some pain and fatigue, we were almost in a whirlwind, and so extremely cold and damp, being in the midst of a cloud, and the wind so violent, that it appeared almost impossible to stand against it: however we got down safely.

Mildred's Court, Eleventh Month, 18*th*.—We have had a prosperous journey, and have at last arrived at our comfortable home. It really looks quite sweet and nice; it is a great thing to have gone so far and returned home safely.

Their family was at this time increased by her brother Samuel Gurney coming to London, to learn the details of business there. He resided for some years at St. Mildred's Court. The shelter of such a residence, in that great and depraved Metropolis, can hardly be too highly estimated, but besides this, he had the advantage of his sister's close and watchful care. She had been much attached to him, when young; and it was an interest and pleasure to her to have him for an inmate. Her labours were eminently blessed to him—and in his faithful love through life, she reaped a rich reward.

First Month, 5th, 1803.—I feel hardly willing to begin this year without observing how very numerous my blessings are; as far as outward blessings go, I believe I want nothing: may I endeavour to be aware of it, and may it stimulate me afresh to strive to serve that Power which has conferred them on me My secret trials and temptations are known by no man, that inclination to lukewarmness of mind, and also forgetfulness of what is good are powerful temptations. They do not, like some others, make a very conspicuous appearance; but they undermine our strength, for want of sufficient effort and sufficient watchfulness; I look forward with much hope, that I may be supported in the day of expected trial But if I seek so little for a close acquaintance with what is good; if I cannot now endeavour humbly to place my confidence in the Power that alone can deliver, is it likely that in such emergency I shall be able to do it. I believe if rightly influenced, I might in some small measure rejoice, if I could feelingly believe, that these afflictions which are but for a moment work for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. Suffer we must in this world:—and the less we kick against the pricks, the happier for us.

She thus records the birth of her second child, which took place, March 25th.

Fourth Month, 12th.—My heart abounded with joy and gratitude when my dear little girl was born perfect and lovely. Words are not equal to express my feelings, for I was most mercifully dealt with, my soul was so quiet and so much supported.

Plashet, Fifth Month, 21st.—I have been long prevented writing my journal, by a severe attack of indisposition. It is difficult exactly to express what I have gone through, but it has been now and then a time of close trial; my feelings being such at times, as to be doubtful whether life or death would be my portion. One night I was I believe very seriously ill; I never remember feeling so forcibly how hard a trial it was in prospect to part with life. Much as my mind, as well as body, was then tried in this emergency, still I felt forcibly an inward support, and it reminded me of that text of Scripture, "Can a woman forget her sucking child, yea they may forget, yet will I not forget thee." And then I told those around me, that I was so ill, I could almost forget my child; but I felt the existence of a Power that could never forget. I have gone through much since, in various ways from real bodily weakness, and also the trials of a nervous imagination: no one knows but those who have felt them, how hard they are to bear, for they lead the mind to look for trouble, and it requires much exertion not to be led away by them; nothing I believe allays them so much as the quieting influence of religion, and that leads us to endeavour after quietness under them, not looking beyond the present. But they are a regular bodily disorder, that I believe no mental exertion can cure or overcome, but we must endeavour not to give way to them.

Mildred's Court, Sixth Month, 5th.—Since I last wrote, I have been gradually becoming better, but still I feel not in usual health; my nerves are in an irritable state, I am soon overcome and overdone. I have been at Meeting, and am now once more entering upon my usual occupations: I fear I am not so much benefited as I ought to be by the illness I have lately gone through; for I have so forcibly felt—What am I, without a hold on something beyond this life?

Earlham, Seventh Month, 30th.—I went to Norwich this morning with my husband, and when there, we received a letter from William, expressing a desire for Joseph's immediate return. The account rather vexed me; and also the gloomy appearance about the French coming, cast a gloom over the party; John came in the evening, and it was truly pleasant, all twelve of us, and the two children being here together. But partly owing to circumstances, the uncertainty of human events so deeply impressed me, that I could not avoid feeling the doubt of our all meeting again.

The fear of a French invasion, and the daily expectation of their landing, took such hold of people at this time, that Mr. Joseph Fry was summoned by his brother, "to be at his post." On his return, he found preparations had been made for flooding the marshes of the river Lee, and breaking down the bridges on the Essex road; whilst his father-in-law was also prepared, so soon as the French should land, to convey his daughters into the Isle of Ely; still regarded by the East Anglian portion of England as a "Camp of refuge."

Mildred's Court, Eighth Month, 22nd.—My brother William came to town in haste, to say my mother was come home very ill. I went with Dr. Willan to Plashet, to see her. I was quite sorry to find her so ill, and felt real love for her. My time is very much occupied with other people, indeed I find it has a very dissipating effect; and it is difficult to keep my mind in its right centre, when it is so often diverted from it.

Tenth Month, 4th.—After reading a little, I went some way off to see a poor woman. After searching a long time in one of the disagreeable parts of London, I could not find her, but I was directed to another poor person who lived near the place, and although I believe the first woman had deceived me, it led me to serve two others that I have reason to think really wanted. I felt quite in my element serving the poor, and although I was much tired with looking about, it gave me much pleasure, it is an occupation my nature is so fond of; I wish not to take merit to myself beyond my desert, but it brings satisfaction with it more than most things.

Upton, Third Month, 15th, 1804.—Since I last wrote, I have more closely witnessed the scene of death, than I ever did before. Last First day morning, about three o'clock, my mother died; I was with her at times on Seventh day, and although I have every reason to believe she died happily, I did not experience those awful, sweet feelings, I should have looked for, at so serious a time. On First day morning, I went into the room, and sat some time with the corpse: it was very affecting to me to see it, and I was a good deal overcome, and felt it much. I have been surprised how little this event has led me into a serious state of mind, I fear it has not had so profitable an effect upon me as it ought.

The death of her mother-in-law, a woman of powerful mind and understanding, united Elizabeth Fry still more closely with her husband's father; to whom she had been always much attached. From the time of her marriage, he had treated her with uniform kindness and attention: and now in his affliction, it was her pleasure as well as her duty, to unite with his own children in soothing his declining years; more time was consequently passed at Plashet with him, and his only daughter, Elizabeth.

At this period of her life, the poor shared much of her attention, and notwithstanding the impediments offered by a great Metropolis, to a young and delicate woman personally visiting them, she persevered occasionally in this habit, until withdrawn from it, by residence in the country, and the increase of more important duties. Her energy and courage in pursuing this object were great, as is proved by the following anecdote.

One cold winter day she was accosted by a woman asking charity, in the street, with a half naked little child in her arms, very ill with the hooping-cough; grieved at the appearance of the child, and her suspicions excited by the evasive answers of the woman, Mrs. Fry offered to accompany her home, and there relieve her necessities: this the woman tried to elude, but determined on her purpose, she succeeded in following her into a low, back street, where, in a wretched, filthy house, the melancholy spectacle presented itself, of a number of sick and neglected infants, not only without comforts, but with the aggravations of misery. The next day, when the medical attendant of her own children went at her request to assist the little sufferers, the room was empty, woman and children gone, nor was any trace ever found of them. On inquiry among the neighbours it was discovered that these were parish children, put to this woman to nurse, who kept them in this condition not merely to assist her purposes of mendicity but with the intention of shortening their lives, and then, by concealing their death, receiving the pittance allotted for their maintenance.

It has already been shown, that in 1801, her attention was called to Joseph Lancaster, who, struggling under difficulties and embarrassments, had assembled around him a large school of very poor children in an upper chamber in Southwark.

She had also formed some valuable friendships with superior and excellent people. Of this number was her cousin Joseph Gurney Bevan, her father's early friend, whom she especially esteemed ; John Hull of Uxbridge, and Rachel Smith, a Friend living in London, all judicious counsellors and her frequent companions.

During the next few years, she was permitted to pass through many illnesses and much suffering ; but her soul appears to have been elevated and purified in the furnace ; deep conflict was often her portion, until her bonds were burst, and she was enabled "to rejoice in the Lord, and joy in the God of her salvation." Earnest desires for the religious good of others, sprang up in her heart. As secondary things were swallowed up in spiritual, her mind became deeply impressed with the belief, that it would be required at her hands, publicly to advocate the cause of God her Saviour, as a minister. This was an awful prospect, from which her whole nature recoiled.

Seventh Month, 10th.—Since I last wrote I have gone on pretty comfortably in most respects ; at times a degree of lowness, but I have altogether been much more encouraged than I was, and feel at present able to leave my fears, trusting in the mercy of Him who may afflict. Oh! may I be ready to bear! I have had many desires after good, and I think reading a little of "No Cross, no Crown," has been rather a stimulus to me, to endeavour after more strictly attending to that voice that instructs us how to take up the daily cross, in overcoming our natural propensities. I was reading in Jeremiah to-day, "Cursed be they who serve the Lord deceitfully," and I hoped that might not be my case. What I long for is, to serve the Lord with strict integrity, keeping self-love in subserviency.

Her eldest son was born in July; her confinement was followed by a trying and tedious illness.

Eighth Month, 19th.—I have been confined three weeks to-day, and I have a nice little boy. I at present feel body and mind very weak; and so I have done most of the time.

Bath, Ninth Month 24th.—Since I last wrote, I have been very unwell, and passed through great suffering, owing to great sickness, faintness, and nervous irritability: however, each trial has had its alleviation; I have not once quite sunk; I have experienced, that though at times it has been rather hard to bear, I do not think it has been too much for me; for although I have felt the wounding hand, yet I have also soon found that the same Power could, and did, make whole.

Mildred's Court, First Month, 14th, 1805.—A new year begun—one of my first desires upon waking was, that I might improve in it.

Plashet, Second Month, 5th.—Since I last wrote, I have been much occupied with many things: rather more than usual about the poor. I have been desirous that attending to them as I do, may not prove a snare to me, for I think acting charitably leads us often to receive more credit than we deserve, or at least to fancy so; it is one of those things that give my nature pleasure, therefore I believe I am no further praiseworthy than that I give way to a natural inclination. Attending the afflicted is one of those things that so remarkably brings its reward with it, that we may rest in a sort of self-satisfaction which is dangerous; but I often feel the blessing of being so situated, as to be able to assist the afflicted, and sometimes a little to relieve their distresses.

11*th.*—We ought to make it an object in conversation and in conduct, to endeavour to oblige those we are with, and rather to make the pleasure of others our object than our own ; I am clear it is a great virtue to be able constantly to yield in little things, it begets the same spirit in others, and renders life happy.

Fifth Month, 7th.—Yesterday, my sister, Eliza Fry, was here; we were saying something about the children's dress ; and she remarked that for the sake of others, (she meant the fear of not setting a good example,) she would not do so and so. I said it struck me that those who do their duty with integrity, are serving others as well as themselves, and do more real good to the cause of true religion, than in looking much outwardly, either to what others do or think. I think that conscience will sometimes lead us to feel for others, and not act so as materially to hurt a weak brother; but I believe we should seldom find that we hurt those whose opinion would be worth caring for, if we kept close to the witness in our own hearts. If I were going to do a thing, I should endeavour to find whether it appeared to me in any way wrong, and whether I should feel easy to do it ; looking secretly for help where it is to be found, and there I believe I should leave it ; and if it led me to act rather differently from some, I should probably be doing more good to society, than in any conformity, merely on account of others, for if I should be preserved in the way of obedience in other things, it would in time show from whence such actions sprung, and I think this very spirit of conforming in trifles to the opinion of others, leads into forms that may one day prove a stumbling-block to the progress of our Society ; whereas, if we attend to the principle that brought us together, it will lead us out of forms, and not into them.

Earlham, Sixth Month, 7th.—There is quite a change since I last wrote, I have passed through much illness among the children ; the Yearly Meeting, and since that, coming here. After my return from Plashet, dear little Rachel was very poorly, and poor John ; all these things tried me, but I endeavoured to bear them with patience and cheerfulness. The Yearly Meeting was very interesting to me, I felt a good deal about it; in the first place, I am struck afresh with the beauty of our principles: but so am I also with the great want of simplicity and integrity in us who profess them; for I am willing to believe, that if we more closely attended to it, there would be more unity, more clearness, and more promptness in our manner of attending to the business of the Society. I used to fear that a selfish principle frequently rose up amongst us, rather than the simple love and fear of God, which spirit I think alone should rule in the management of the discipline intended to protect our religious principles. The dread I had over me, in Plaistow Meeting, of saying something, impressed me in most of the Meetings. I had such clear ideas in some of the Meetings; but I did not believe it necessary for my salvation to do it, and I believe hardly any motive short of that could induce me. Once in hearing the queries answered, How many were negligent in attending Weekday Meetings? it struck me, it arose from allowing the business of the world to stand too much in competition with the things of God, and of how much more importance one was than the other; for a right attention to religious duties, enables us much better to perform our temporal ones. I have enjoyed coming here, and being with them.

Seventh Month, 3rd.—It appears to me, that we who desire to be the servants of Christ, must expect to do a part of our Master's work; which no doubt is to bear with the weaknesses and infirmities of human nature, and if we be favoured to feel them, and not sink under them, we may be enabled in time to help others to bear their burdens; and it appears to me, that all Christian travellers must expect to pass through, in their measure, the temptations and trials their Master did on earth.

Mildred's Court, 19th.—Yesterday, and the day before, I have been driven from one thing to another, and from one person to another, as is usual in this place. I have feared my attention being quite diverted from good. But I have also thought that doing our duty is most effectually serving the Lord. May I therefore endeavour to do mine, and not be impatient at my numerous interruptions, but strive to centre my mind in a humble desire to do the will of my Creator, which will through all create a degree of quietness.

Mildred's Court, Second Month, 15th, 1806.—I have been confined nearly all this week with a bad cough, and still continue poorly. I have particularly felt the vacancy of all outward help, or consolation, or protection; neither reading good books, writing journals, nor anything else, will, or can do: but placing our dependence on the Power, that calls us out of darkness into light, and that alone can lead us and point out to us the rocks on which we are likely to split, for though we may certainly profit by the experience of others, yet there is a new way as it were for each to tread in: and they are not the same temptations which assail all travellers Zionward, but different natures are differently tried; all must first seek for light to guide them (individually), that will teach them in the right time what to do, and what to leave undone, and prove in the end their strong tower, and preservation from all harm.

Earlham, Third Month, 8th.—These words of Haggai strike me, i. 5, 6, "Now therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts; consider your ways. Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put them into a bag with holes." Whether they may not be applied to myself and some others, who go on as it were, saving seed not of the best sort, too much mixed with our own desires, our own gratifications, and therefore we bring forth little; instead of saving that pure seed of doing the will of our Heavenly Father for His sake, that would truly increase and bring in much to us, even more than we should want for ourselves, but we might even have to spare for others. Truly we eat, but have we enough? we taste how good the Lord is, but do we satisfy the hungry part within us? In the same way we drink, but do we seek with sufficient earnestness to be filled with drink; we clothe ourselves, but do we not want warmth of clothing? do we not want in zeal, in good works; and that warm love that would lead us nearer and nearer to that pure fountain of life, that alone can satisfy poor, hungry, seeking souls.

Plashet, Seventh day Morning.—Feeling myself going on, as it were driven by the current of the world; I desire, if possible, to stop myself, and examine for what end am I thus busy? Is it to gratify self-love, or is my motive, that all that I do, should be done in the service of Him whom I desire to serve?

Fifth Month, 13*th.*—There is One only who knows my heart, and its great wants. To Him then I look, even to Him who has borne our infirmities. Teach me Thy way, lead me in the paths of righteousness for Thy name sake; give me strength in weakness, if thou seest meet, O Lord! that I may overcome temptation. O Lord! teach me to do Thy will towards those nearly connected with me: may I be a faithful steward of what may be committed to my trust.

Elizabeth Fry having been appointed by the Friends of Grace-church-street Meeting, a visitor to the school and workhouse belonging to the Society at Islington, entered upon the employment with no little interest as congenial to her former tastes and habits. She visited the school as often as her other engagements would permit, always to the general pleasure of the children, who soon learned to appreciate her interest in them, and desires for their good.

Fifth Month, 15*th.*—Yesterday I went to the workhouse to spend the evening with the children; a prospect I have had in view some time, almost ever since I have been on the appointment. I took them things for tea: I dreaded going on many accounts, fearing I should not feel at liberty to make any remarks I might wish to the children during their reading, which it was my principal object in going to attend. I did not exactly see my way; however, I thought I would (as Friends say) make my way. I found after tea, they did not read till nearly eight, and I could not remain later than a little past seven. I spoke to the governess about it, and she was quite willing to alter the hour, and so was the stewardess. I proposed reading a little pamphlet that has lately come out by Frederick Smith, to children. There was a solemnity during reading it, so that Ann Withers was in tears most of the time, and some of the children were disposed that way; afterwards, when we had finished, I endeavoured to weigh whether I really had anything to say to them or not; I thought that I had, and therefore took up the book as if to explain it; making my own remarks which appeared to affect the children and the governess, so that those who were on the point of tears really wept. Now this event has made me feel rather odd; it is marvellous to me how I got courage to do it before Ann Withers. I have felt so desirous not to stamp such a thing too highly, for I am ready to believe, though the party appeared to feel what I said so much, it was principally owing to their great tenderness, as that which I said seemed rather to flow naturally from my heart and understanding, than anything really deep from the living fountain. I have desired that this little event may not encourage me too much, for hard things seemed made quite easy. Oh! that in anything like a religious duty, I may never go beyond the right Guide, nor ever give self the praise. Keep me humble and dependent on Thee, O Lord! even if self suffer in being made so.

Mildred's Court, 21st.—The Yearly Meeting has been begun for us for some days, as we have had company here very often since Seventh day. On Second day, we had rather a choice party to dinner, and to me a very solemn opportunity after: I can hardly describe what passed, but it was of that nature, that I considered it as an increase of talent committed to our charge; and ought indeed afresh to stimulate to seek after and depend upon Him, who alone can protect us. How much I desire that Friends may at this time get beyond the natural part, that is indeed corruptible; and get down to the spiritual part, that will unite us in the love of Christ, and lead us to endeavour in meekness and forbearance one towards another to come at the right thing. I know well the harmony of Friends is great; but my fear is, lest the natural part should be disposed to take a part in spiritual things, and sometimes lead us to judge from externals one of another, and so mar that spiritual beauty that would otherwise show itself, and perhaps beguile some into the way of godliness.

Her fourth child was born June 1st, 1806.

Sixth Month, 8th.—This day week I was confined with a sweet boy. How much do I now desire, that I may be able to leave all things to the Allwise Disposer of events, trusting in his wisdom and mercy; so far indeed I have abundant cause for thankfulness, and though my poor mind has at times passed through a little of the depths; yet I have felt the delivering power near at hand: may I hope that in the right time it will again come to my help!

Seventh Month, 4th.—Once more so occupied with life and its concerns, that last night I could not write; I felt it a cause of thankfulness being able to get through the day.

6th.—It struck me this morning at Meeting, that in states when we appear to have no power of our own, no energy, and no capability to do any good thing, our cry is heard, and our petitions come in a more acceptable form, than sometimes when full of power, vigour and life. How much do I desire that above all things, I may have a life in doing the will of my Creator. I am ready to believe that I had rather suffer affliction to be what I ought to be, than to enjoy the pleasures of life, if less profitable.

Mildred's Court, Eleventh Month, 10th.—I have received a very sweet and encouraging letter, from my beloved cousin J. G. Bevan. This led me for many hours in the day, to be in a craving state for spiritual food, and led me to anxious desires that the work might be perfected in me, and that nothing of the creature may ever stand in competition with the will and the work of the Creator.

Early in December, Mr. and Mrs. Fry, went to Earlham, to be present at the marriage of her sister Louisa, to Samuel Hoare, the son of Samuel Hoare, Esq., of Hampstead, Middlesex.

Earlham, Twelfth Month, 6th.—On Fourth day morning, the 24th, our dear Louisa was married at Tasborough Meeting. A very serious and interesting time to us all. My father, all of us eleven, my husband and Samuel Hoare. The Meeting was very solemn, and did to me sweetly license them in their solemn engagement, it was like a seal set to it. There was testimony upon testimony, and blessing upon blessing, from the ministers present; and what was better than all to me, a sweet inward covering over the Meeting. All appeared unity and love; rather remarkable to see so large a family all so nearly sympathizing, and closely united. My dear brother John was sweet indeed, and deeply feeling; may it last in him, and may he truly find the pearl of great price.

Newmarket, Twelfth Month, 31st.—The last day of this year, looking forward to the next. Thou who knowest what our trials and temptations are, keep us faithful unto Thee; preserve us from the snares of the enemy, be with us all as a family; and bless the dispensations of Thy Providence to us, by drawing us nearer to Thyself through them!

First Month, 6th, 1807.—My dear brother John, I believe this morning will marry our dear cousin Elizabeth Gurney, may they truly prove blessings to each other, and to both families.

Among the papers of Elizabeth Fry was found the following letter, but whether ever sent to her brother and sister, there are now no means of ascertaining; it is however too valuable to omit here.

My very dear John and Elizabeth.

I leave off writing my journal, to write to you; for whilst I was expressing in it my feelings, the love I then felt and now feel for thee, dear John, came so powerfully before me, that instead of writing it in my journal, I wish to express it to you both. My interest and sympathy is great in your present undertaking; and my desire, sincere, that in your union you may indeed obtain the Divine blessing. What is the Divine blessing, but in the first place to be cleansed from our sins and weaknesses so fully, that we may in innocency compass the altar of God availingly. And secondly, to live under the protection of Him, who is able to save us from every hurtful thing, and turn all the circumstances of our lives to good account; so as in them to bless us and draw us nearer to Him, who can do all things for us, both inwardly and outwardly.

It is hardly likely that I shall see you before, or soon after you marry, you have, you know, my good wishes for your prosperity in every way, but you must expect some bitter mixed with the sweet cup; for without it we should rest too much in the enjoyments of life. I think you will be a very devoted couple to each other; therefore I advise you to be on your guard, and to remember that all natural things, and natural affections amongst the rest, are corruptible. That there is something better that must be loved first, and that we must hold all things in subjection to this Power, that alone must be worshipped, and that alone can sanctify all other things to us, and so make them partake of the enduring, powerful, heavenly nature. This is what I desire all my affections to be tinged with; that I may love those who are near to me, not alone with my own natural feelings, but that a better love may be felt in me towards them; a love that is not affected by the separations and trials of life.

Mildred's Court, First Month, 27th.—Do with me as Thou wilt, only let me be Thine! This is in measure my desire this morning, and that whether it be in heights or depths, I may spend my life to Thy glory.

Mrs. Fry again travelled into Norfolk to attend the wedding of her sister Hannah.

She was married to Thomas Fowell Buxton, Esq., afterwards Sir T. Fowell Buxton, Bart.

Fifth Month, 20th.—I have been deeply interested in my beloved Hannah's marriage, which was satisfactory; I desire their good every way. Now I am again entering Yearly Meeting: this leads me to various feelings and some desires after the good of the whole body, more particularly that we may rest in no form, and not make too much of it. How very poor I feel, but I admire at the merciful hand that still appears extended to help me.

Sixth Month, 22nd.—To day I have been to try to draw a poor young woman from her evil course: I felt my own incapability to help her, and my lukewarmness. But I desire that if it be right I may receive a little help, and be enabled in some measure, to assist in drawing a poor sinner into a better path, and if such should be the case, may I give the glory where it is due.

Plashet, Seventh Month, 20th.—I have been, I think I may say very ill, with something of an intermittent fever. I desire to express a little, what I have gone through. I have certainly at times been very closely pressed, bodily and mentally: but for all that, I have no cause to complain, but indeed to give thanks. I very soon found I had but one place to fly to, but one sure place of refuge, and that was, humbly to endeavour with all my power, wholly to give myself up to God, knowing His dispensations were allwise: as for my poor soul, I could only look to His mercy and forgiveness; for he can pardon in mercy, little as I deserve it. I could offer few words on behalf either of soul or body, but the desire was to be wholly given up to Him, who could do all things for me; I desired to leave all. Oh, how do I crave that I may, in sickness and in health, and under every dispensation, be wholly given up, body, soul, and spirit, and no longer falter as between two opinions.

Eighth Month.—At Meeting, Richard Philips spoke on the necessity of faith, I felt tendered and refreshed, and so well altogether that health appeared quickly returning; but, not unlike the events of life, the next morning I awoke ill; in a suffering state, and very faint. I had two days of considerable trial from such very deeply painful feelings of bodily weakness and sinking, then a day of comparative rest. The next day a return of my old complaint, the fever, and one more since then. It was of a very suffering nature to me whilst it lasted; but still I may say with truth, I once more have only cause to give thanks, for the burden did not appear too hard, and there was a merciful and healing power open to my cry, for I was helped, and my prayers appeared to be granted. But I found that looking back to the help that I had before experienced would not do; the manna of yesterday was not for to-day!

Questions for Myself.

First,—Hast thou this day been honest and true in performing thy duty towards thy Creator in the first place: and, secondly, towards thy fellow-creatures; or hast thou sophisticated and flinched.

Second,—Hast thou been vigilant in frequently pausing in the hurry and career of the day, to see who thou art endeavouring to serve; whether thy Maker or thyself? And every time that trial or temptation assailed thee, didst thou endeavour to look steadily to the Delivering Power; even to Christ who can do all things for thee.

Third,—Hast thou endeavoured to perform thy relative duties faithfully: been a tender, loving, yielding wife, where thy own will and pleasure were concerned; a tender, yet steady mother with thy children, making thyself quickly and strictly obeyed, but careful in what thou requirest of them: a kind, yet honest mistress, telling thy servants of their faults, when thou thinkest it for their or thy good, but never unnecessarily worrying thyself or them about trifles: and to every one endeavouring to do as thou wouldest be done unto?

Mildred's Court, First Month, 1st, 1808.—A new year begun—and to me, with some weight at my heart; oh, for my beloved's welfare, as well as my own and our dear lambs, spiritually. May none of us prove an injury to the principle we profess; and may we in all our undertakings, that originate in evil, be marred and stopped in our course: oh! I can say, if Thou seest meet, lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. I know how frail we all are, may we not be utterly cast off; may we in the end prove our integrity, and all be given up to follow the good alone, in the newness of life. How grievous to serve the evil one; and how sweet to follow Him, the Shepherd of Israel; and lead others, in ever so small a measure to do so. O Lord! I pray for mercy, give us not up to the will of the enemy: may we live to show forth Thy praise! I am favoured in some small measure to hope in the Lord, and to rejoice in the power of His salvation; for indeed He can deliver from evil.

15*th.*—I yesterday felt a good deal about Mary Ann D—— coming to teach the children and live here, fearing for the peace of our nursery establishment; and I did desire that as far as was right, I might in these matters receive the Divine Blessing: for to me it is no light matter to direct my household and children; and I feel in that, as in all other things, without Divine assistance what can I do?

Second Month, 18*th*.—Oh, that my faith fail not, but that I may be enabled to look to the right place for support!

Her fifth child was born February 19th. In the May following Elizabeth, wife of her eldest brother John, and daughter of her uncle, Richard Gurney of Keswick, died, after a lingering illness. She was cut off in the bloom of youth, and the height of human happiness; at a period when the large family of which she was a member, were in the enjoyment of this world's brightest prosperity.

They possessed health, affluence, and rather uncommon endowments of person, disposition, and talent. Little acquainted with the trials of life, and intimately connected with each other; the shock occasioned by the early death of this interesting and beautiful young woman, vibrated with a sort of surprise as well as sorrow, to the utmost limits of their extensive circle. Death with its melancholy accompaniments was strange to them; for this was their first affliction since the loss of their mother. It was the cause of arresting the hitherto unchecked stream of their prosperity; yet in the overruling Providence of God, it was singularly blessed to them, from the effect produced upon their minds, and the circumstances that arose out of it.

By the desire of their widowed brother, the sisters sought for him in his extreme affliction, the visits and counsels of the Rev. Edward Edwards, Lecturer of Saint Margaret's, Lynn. This gentleman, an early friend of Venn, acquainted with Scott and Newton, and at the time we speak of, in habits of intimacy with Mr. Simeon, of Cambridge, and other clergymen of similar sentiments, proved indeed, a messenger of good to the Gurney family; who were all more or less awakened to the importance of a religious life,—but were making their way through many difficulties and doubts—not one of them established in any form or sect excepting Elizabeth Fry; the others tending more or less to the Church of England or to Friends, but all anxious and alive to the subject. Mr. Edwards directed them in their affliction to the wisdom and the mercy of the hand that had smitten them; and as time permitted them to turn their attention to controversial subjects, he supplied them with books, and assisted them in becoming acquainted with the differences existing in the Christian Church, and by leading them to study these subjects upon Scriptural grounds, enabled them to decide for themselves. It was not without pain, that she, who had so decidedly chosen the path of Friends, saw others so dear to her, as decidedly choosing another way and uniting themselves with the Church of England; but, as each one became established in his own course, some one way, some the other, a wonderful union and communion sprang up among them, so that their bond in natural things, was not stronger, than that, which united them, as devoted worshippers of the same Lord.

Fifth Month, 27*th*.—Since I last wrote, I have gone through much trouble. Last Seventh day week, an account was received of the death of our much loved sister, Elizabeth Gurney. I felt it deeply; during her illness my heart cried unto the Lord for mercy, and He would take her unto Himself, and that her transgressions might be blotted out. Being still so much inclined to trying nervous feelings, made me feel it in a more painful way: not finding any rest away from them all, Joseph and I went to Lynn—an afflicting time. On Third day morning, I had a most affecting meeting with dear John, yet felt myself far too week, poor, and in too painfully nervous a state, to afford him comfort; but rather needed it myself. It was a very melting interview: the remainder of the day being spent in the house with the dear remains was really sweet to me; I had comfort in my sorrow. Fourth day, we left Lynn for Earlham. The next morning was the funeral at Norwich, and poor I, hardened and almost entirely devoted to my own nervous feelings. This was a trial to me, when I had hoped to have been enabled to seek after the best help for the dear afflicted; and also to feel on account of our much loved lost Elizabeth. But I desired that this humiliating dispensation might be for my good.

Earlham, Eighth Month, 20th.—I have been married eight years yesterday. Various trials of faith and patience have been permitted me; my course has been very different to what I had expected, and instead of being, as I had hoped, a useful instrument in the Church Militant, here I am a care-worn wife and mother, outwardly nearly devoted to the things of this life. Though at times this difference in my destination has been trying to me, yet, I believe those trials (which have certainly been very pinching) that I have had to go through have been very useful, and brought me to a feeling sense of what I am; and at the same time have taught me where power is, and in what we are to glory; not in ourselves nor in any thing we can be, or do, but we are alone to desire that He may be glorified, either through us or others, in our being something or nothing, as He may see best for us. I have seen, particularly in our spiritual allotments, that it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps; it is our place, only to be as passive clay in His holy hands, simply and singly desiring, that He would make us, what He would have us to be. But the way in which this great work is to be effected, we must leave to Him, who has been the Author, and we may trust will be the Finisher of the work: and we must not be surprised to find it going on differently, to what our frail hearts would desire.

I may also acknowledge that through all my trials, there does appear to have been a particular blessing attending me, both as to the fatness of the land, and the dew of Heaven; for though I have been at times deeply tried inwardly and outwardly, yet I have always found the delivering Arm has been near at hand, and the trials have appeared blessed to me. The little efforts or small acts of duty I have ever performed, have often seemed remarkably blessed to me; and where others have been concerned, it has also I think been apparent in them, that the effort on my part, has been blessed to both parties. Also, what shall I say when I look at my husband and my five lovely babes. How I have been favoured to recover from illnesses, and to get through them without material injury in any way. I also observe, how any little care towards my servants appears to have been blessed, and what faithful and kind friends to me, I have found them. Indeed I cannot enumerate my blessings; but I may truly say, that of all the blessings I have received, and still receive, there is none to compare to believing that I am not yet forsaken, but notwithstanding all my deviations, in mercy cared for. And (if all the rest be taken from me) far above all, I desire, that if I should be led through paths I know not of, which may try my weak faith and nature, I may not lose my faith in Thee; but may increasingly love Thee; delight to follow after Thee, and be singly Thine; giving all things up to Thee, who hast hitherto been my only merciful Protector and Preserver.

Again, sickness and death were permitted to enter her immediate circle. Henceforward, Elizabeth Fry was frequently called upon to witness the last moments of some, and largely to sympathize in the afflictions of others. She was now to partake personally in the solemn scene of death, on occasion of the decease of her father-in-law William Storrs Fry; this event took place at St. Mildred's Court, where she had nursed him assiduously during some weeks' illness. To the latest period of her life, she dwelt with pleasure on the satisfaction and privilege of having been permitted to be a comfort and assistance to him, during his passage through the dark valley. He was a man of piety and amiability of disposition, and had endeared himself to her by gentleness, and affectionate attention. He was in the habit of frequently driving to London from Plashet. The heavy coach with its bear-skin hammer-cloth, and black horses was a pleasant sight; for he brought with him an atmosphere of kindliness and love; nor did he fail to be the bearer of flowers or fruit or some fresh productions of the country so welcome to dwellers in a city. His decease produced an important change in her circumstances, causing the removal of the family to Plashet.

Mildred's Court, Tenth Month, 17th.—We have had my poor father Fry here for five weeks, very ill indeed; and last Seventh day morning, at a little before two o'clock, he died. This was to me a very affecting time, not so much so on his own account, as we had reason to hope and believe it was well with him; but the awful sight of death was very overcoming to me, never having witnessed such a scene before. But I often had very sweet and refreshing moments by his bed-side; and from his own expressions, we had great reason for hope—at one time he said, he had no fear, and indeed it appeared a well-grounded feeling. During the first part of his illness, while at Mildred's Court, death appeared to him in an awful and almost dreadful point of view, though he could not help feeling a degree of comfort in his innocent life, yet he desired life for a little longer to prove his further dedication; this he often expressed. After he was confined up-stairs, he seemed more powerfully to feel the necessity of an interest in that Power which can alone do all things for us, and prove indeed our salvation, for it is only through the redeeming power of Christ, we can look for salvation. He said, he felt himself, "a poor repentant nothing;" and "alone depended upon mercy." Some days after that, he said he had "no fear:" and one morning when we thought him dying, he said, we "need not be afraid, for he was comfortable, comfortable, comfortable." I, with many others wept, I believe with thankfulness. I felt little less than joy, as I did at one or two other times in the room. There was such sweetness attending him. It is certainly an encouraging consideration, for it shows to me that it does much signify what talent is committed to us, if we be but faithful with it. My dear father was not one that had great things required of him apparently; but being faithful in the little, we need not doubt, he now possesses more. I loved him very dearly, and his memory is sweet to me; I have a pleasure in considering I was able to nurse him in his last illness. There is one remark I make, that I believe it is through Christ we are saved, but I would not have that lessen our diligence to work out our own salvation, for I believe those who endeavour to follow Him, are enabled to have faith, and have an interest in that power that can save.

Eleventh Month, 10*th*.—I have hardly settled at home since my dear father's death. Last First day, I was sent for to see my dear sister Hannah, who was very poorly; it proved to be the scarlet fever, and being the only sister at liberty, I have nursed her. This I consider a great privilege to be able to do; though I have felt it a very serious thing, with a young babe, and the mother of so many little lambs to enter so catching a disorder. I have desired I might not enter it in my own will, or simply to gratify inclination, which leads me to enjoy nursing those I love so dearly: circumstances appeared to bring me into it, indeed I had hardly an option, as I was in the first instance brought into it, not knowing what the complaint was; and in the second, there was no one else that I thought proper to fill my place, as my sister Louisa was prevented. I have desired that what is really best for me may occur, even if it be to pass through trouble. But if my merciful Creator sees meet to preserve me and my family from any further suffering on this account, may I be enabled to give the praise where it is due, and may it afresh stimulate me to seek with renewed vigilance, to dedicate myself and all that belongs to me, to Him, whom my poor weak unworthy soul loves; I could think beyond every thing, though I know the world has a strong hold, and perhaps my heart is more devoted to it than to its Creator. I feel thankful for my beloved sister being better.

Plashet, 20*th*.—Though I have been but very delicate in my health the last week, yet I have been favoured with sweet and precious moments. I have felt sweet peace, not exactly the peace arising from any act of obedience in particular; but unmerited, unlooked for quietness of soul, so that I could say, my peace flows as a river! not that my natural spirits have been high, far from it; but there has, at times, been an enjoyment in the low valley far above any feeling of exhilaration, and I have been reminded of that text, "I will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is staid on me." Though, as I said before, I am conscious that this is quite an unmerited state; and also how little I have done, towards trying to stay my mind in the right place. No one as yet has taken the complaint of my sister, which I consider a great outward blessing; may I be enabled to give thanks, and to prove my thankfulness, by more and more endeavouring to give up body, soul and spirit to the service of my beloved Master, if I dare say so of Him whom my soul delights to serve.

Fragment that occurs at this part of the Journal.

Children should be deeply impressed with the belief, that the first and great object of their education is, to follow Christ, and indeed to be true Christians: and those things on which we, the Society of Friends, differ from the world in general, should not I think be impressed on them, by only saying, as is often done, "because Friends do it;" but singly and simply as things that the Christian life appears to us to require, and that therefore they must be done. They should also early be taught that all have not seen exactly the same; but that there are many equally belonging to the church of Christ, who may in other respects be as much stricter than ourselves, as we are than they in these matters. But this does not at all lessen the necessity of our employing a simple mode of expressing ourselves, who are permitted to see the consistency and propriety of it.

(Signed) Elizabeth Fry.

30*th*.—At this time there is no set of people I feel so much about as servants:—I do not think they have generally justice done to them; they are too much considered as another race of beings, and we are apt to forget that the holy injunction holds good with them, "Do as thou wouldest be done unto," and I believe in striving to do so, we shall not take them out of their station in life; but endeavour to render them happy and contented in it, and be truly their friends, though not their familiars or equals, as to the things of this life, for we have reason to believe the difference in our stations is ordered by a wiser than ourselves, who directs us how to fill our different places; but we must endeavour never to forget, that in the best sense we are all one, and though our paths here may be different, we have all souls equally valuable and have all the same work to do; which, if properly considered, should lead us to great sympathy and love, and also to a constant care for their welfare, both here and hereafter.

Mildred's Court, Second Month, 14th, 1809.—The thought of forming a new establishment at Plashet, with servants, &c., is to me a very serious one. I find it so difficult fully to do my duty towards them, and even when I do, to give them satisfaction. My mind is often much burdened on this subject; I long to make them my friends, and for us all to live in harmony and love. We greatly (I mean servants and their heads in general) misunderstand each other; I fully believe partly from our different situations in life, and partly from our different educations, and the way in which each party is apt to view the other. Masters and mistresses are greatly deficient, I think in the general way, and so are most servants towards them: it is for both to keep in view strictly to do unto others, as they would be done unto; and also to remember that we are indeed all one with God.

Oh, that I may keep watchful and near my Guide; and that if it be consistent with the Divine will, I may be enabled to say, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord," and delight to do His commandments.

CHAPTER VI.

1809—1812. Removal to Plashet, enjoyment of the country—Birth of her sixth child, 1809—Summons into Norfolk—Death of her father—Extract from the journal of Rachel Gurney—Commencement of her public ministry—Journey into the West of England—Letter to her children—Letter to the Rev. Edward Edwards—Funeral of her cousin Mrs. Jacob Reynolds—Letter to a distant friend—Visit to Earlham—Journey into Gloucestershire—Birth of her seventh child, 1811—Acknowledged as a minister by Friends—Attention to the Poor School, &c.—Norwich Bible Society—More extended intercourse with others—Effects upon her mind.

In the spring of 1809, Joseph and Elizabeth Fry removed to Plashet.

To one who was alive to every sound and every object in nature, it was indeed a change, from the smoke and din of a crowded city to the calm tranquillity of the country. It was a renewal of early tastes and pleasures, not the less appreciated because years had passed over her in sunshine and in storm, leaving traces of hard-earned experience. She had remarkably the talent of throwing aside graver objects, and for short intervals divesting herself of care. She would enjoy her garden and flowers, generally with some of her children about her, and then as quickly resume her employments. Although these occupations appeared different, there was unity of purpose in the whole. She desired to serve God in the fulfilment of her daily duties; she offered to Him the sacrifice of thanksgiving, by the spirit in which she accepted and enjoyed His beauties in creation. Her brow would relax, and her countenance beam with intelligence, as she explained to her children the wonders of the Heavenly bodies, the structure of an insect, or the growth and beauty of a flower.

Soon after their removal to Plashet, Mr. Fry made considerable alterations in the grounds. During her permitted intervals of relaxation, she gradually filled the plantations with wild flowers. Followed by her little ones, with their baskets and trowels, their old Norfolk nurse, whose love of primroses almost equalled her own, and Dennis Regan the Irish gardener, she would set forth to transplant seedlings, or deck fresh spots with that pale yellow flower, so profusely found in every copse, and on every green bank, not only at Earlham, but throughout her native county.

Happy is it, that in the dealings of God with man, there is so marvellous an adaptation to the respective powers and circumstances of each individual. When He demands unusual service, or peculiarly active devotion to the cause of religion upon earth, He frequently bestows with it, a power in proportion, of receiving refreshment and delight from the outward blessings of life. That many refuse to enjoy, and deny themselves the good things that He has provided for His children, proves nothing against the bounty and indulgence, of the hand, which proffers them. After the deepest conflicts of spirit, amidst heavy and peculiar sorrows, she, whose character we desire to pourtray, would turn with a thankful heart to the blessings granted; her courage raised, her faith strengthened, by thus dwelling on His wonderful goodness to the children of men.

Plashet, Third Month, 8th, 1809.—My dearest little Rachel has been seriously unwell for some time past, so as to make me very low at times; but I have not suffered much from painful anxiety, as in mercy I may say I have been screened from that feeling. I desire with regard to my dear lambs to be ready to give them up if called for at my hand; for we know not what is best for them: and I believe we should seek to look upon them, as charges committed to our stewardship, and not as our property.

18*th*.—I do not think I have ever expressed the pleasure and enjoyment I find in a country life; both for myself and the dear children. It has frequently led me to feel gratefully, for the numerous benefits conferred; and I have also desired that I may not rest in, or too much depend on any of these outward enjoyments. It is certainly to me a time of sunshine. All I desire is a heart more truly devoted; both inwardly and outwardly, I have lately experienced great sweetness and tranquillity of mind.

Earlham, Fifth Month, 6th.—We arrived here yesterday, after a very comfortable journey; I feel being here very much, principally on account of my beloved sisters being led in so different a path to myself. I desire to be enabled to feel as I ought about it, and not selfishly on account of their differing from me, so long as the truth prospers with them.

Plashet, Sixth Month, 13*th*.—After having gone through so much since I last wrote, it is difficult for me to express all, but more particularly from rather unusual and repeated causes of thankfulness, in having experienced the Divine Arm held out for my encouragement and help. I had one or two very striking times during the Yearly Meeting, as if meant to confirm my poor feeble faith. Once, when dear Ann Crowley and John Hull dined with us; before a word was spoken, or the cloth was removed from the table, my soul was brought from a dry, flat, insensible state, to be humbly prostrate before Him, whom it has at times desired to serve. So much so, that I felt that this was enough without words from others: but it was not long before dear Ann Crowley had to express the same, and told me the very thoughts and feelings of my mind and heart. It was indeed a wonderful confirmation; almost like seeing face to face in a glass. What a blessing to be under such a living ministry, that speaks to and reveals the innermost soul! Since the Yearly Meeting, I have been greatly helped and supported through the trial of my dear sister Elizabeth Gurney's confinement, which at one time, I felt no strength to encounter; but power and courage were given me sufficient for the day.

Seventh Month, 3rd.—I have as usual to acknowledge many mercies received by me; I have been greatly occupied in attending my sister Fry, who has been dangerously ill, from breaking a blood-vessel. I have felt her patient conduct an example to me.

Ninth Month, 13th.—Time runs on apace. I desire my imagination may not dwell on that which is before it. Every outward thing appears nearly, if not quite ready; and as for the inward preparation, I cannot prepare myself.

Her sixth child was born on the 20th September.

23rd.—On Fourth day, my lovely boy was born, a willing mind to suffer was hard to get at: I longed to have the cup removed from me. I had to acknowledge present help in trouble, so that I could only give thanks; indeed I have renewed cause for thankfulness and praise, which my poor unworthy mind has felt little able to render since, being weak at times, tempted and tried; but I desire to abide near, and cling to that power, that can pardon and deliver.

Tenth Month, 5th.—Yesterday I was much affected by an account of poor dear nurse at Earlham, being dangerously ill of scarlet fever, at Lynn, and not likely to live. Sweet love and unity I have towards her, accompanied by a feeling belief that it will be well with her, in life or in death; for I could almost say, she bore the mark of her high calling, being a living example in the house; not a talker, but a doer of the work; at least so she appeared to me. This awfully brings death home, which indeed I feel hardly able to look at in my own power, but it is one of those subjects upon which I do not desire often to dwell, I had rather look to the work of each hour as it comes: and oh, when it please the Master to call me hence, may he find me watching!

6th.—The account of dear nurse's death arrived yesterday; in her, we have all lost a most valuable friend.

Tunbridge Wells, 16th.—Since I last wrote, I have had much to feel on account of my dear father, who has gone through a similar operation to the one which he underwent in London; but it has been cause of gratitude that he has so far gone on well; dearest Priscilla has also had the scarlet fever. I have felt all these things: but not in a distressing way, having more hope than fear, and both of them going on well has been a comfort to me. With regard to myself, my health has altogether continued finely; a little more nervous trial the last day or two. But I desire to be submissive and quiet if I can, under whatever may come, if it be right that I should be tried. Having no Meeting here, we yesterday sat silently together in the family; and I have to relate what has pained me with regard to myself. There appeared on our first sitting down so solemn a covering, but, notwithstanding all my covenants, and all my good desires, I flinched in spirit and turned my mind from it, instead of feeling, "Speak Lord for thy servant heareth;" my great fear was, lest I should have to acknowledge, that I believed the promise was verified with us, that "where two or three are met together in My name, there am I in the midst of them."

Now, I think it very likely I should not have found myself thus called upon; but my fear was so great, that I dare not ask whether it were the right call or not, but turned from it. This has renewedly led me to see what I am, and humbly to desire, feeling my own extreme weakness and rebellious heart, that He who has in mercy begun the work in me will be pleased still to carry it on, and to grant ability to do that which He may require at my hands. I could almost have said, yesterday, "Let not Thine hand spare, nor Thine eye pity," until thou hast made me what Thou wouldest have me to be; and yet afterwards I was more disposed to say, "Be pleased to mix mercy with judgment." I had a sweet little encouragement during my confinement; being one morning rather remarkably led to feel for a young woman whom I believed to be devoted to the world; and that very person calling a few hours afterwards, though I did not know she was coming, I was enabled to express what I felt to her, and had to experience the truth of that text, "in the day of my power my people shall be made a willing people:" it appeared as if this were granted to help me through it, in my very weak state: may I show my gratitude by further obedience, when power is less manifested.

Earlham, 30th.—I hardly know how to express myself:—I have indeed passed through wonders. On the 26th, as we were sitting quietly together, (after my dear sister Richenda had left us, and my soul had bowed on my beloved father's account, of whom we had daily very poor reports,) an express arrived bringing Chenda back, saying our most dear father was so ill, that they did not expect his life would be spared. Words fall short to describe what I felt, he was so tenderly near and dear to me. We soon believed it best to set off for this place, on some accounts under great discouragement, principally from my own bodily weakness, and also the fever in the house; but it did not appear as if we could omit it, feeling as we did, therefore, after a tender parting with my beloved flock, my dearest Joseph, Chenda, and I with the baby, set off. We arrived at Mildred's Court the first night, where our dear sister left us in hopes of seeing our parent alive. In very great weakness I set off the next morning, and had at times great discouragements; but many hours were comforting and sweet. Hearing on the road at the different stages that my dearest father was living, we proceeded till we arrived at Earlham, about twelve o'clock that night. We got out of the carriage, and once more, saw him who has been so inexpressibly dear to me through life, since I knew what love was; he was asleep, but death was strongly marked on his sweet, and to me, beautiful face. Whilst in his room all was sweetness, nothing bitter, though how I feel his loss is hard to express: but indeed, I have had abundant cause to rejoice on his account. After very deep probation, his mind was strikingly visited and consoled at last in passing through the valley of the shadow of death. He frequently expressed that he feared no evil, but believed that through the mercy of God in Christ, he should be received in glory; his deep humility, and the tender and loving state he was in, were most valuable to those around him. He encouraged us, his children, to hold on our way; and sweetly expressed his belief, that our love of good (in the degree we had it) had been a stimulus and help to him.

The next morning he died, quite easily; I was not with him, but on entering his room soon after it was over, my soul was bowed within me, in love, not only for the deceased, but also for the living, and in humble thankfulness; so that I could hardly help uttering (which I did) my thanksgiving and praise, and also what I felt for the living, as well as the dead. I cannot understand it; but the power given was wonderful to myself, and the cross none — my heart was so full that I could hardly hinder utterance.

The words were the same as afterwards at the funeral, "Great and marvellous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints." Her sister Rachel thus describes it—"Dear Betsey uttered thanksgiving, and a song of rejoicing, for mercy that had been so richly extended to our beloved father; and a prayer, that it might be continued to us all."

I have desired since to leave this event; but it was a glorious time, such an one as I never before passed through, all love, all joy, all peace, or the nearest I think to that state, that I ever experienced. I had the first night, of coming, a few nervous and painful moments about the scarlet fever, on account principally of my beloved flock at home; and a fear, whether in my weak state of body, it might not to be too much for me. But love so powerfully drew me to them, that I believe I could not properly have staid away; and indeed I have felt in my place, as far as I could tell. Should I forsake my beloved family in the day of trouble? I hope, and believe not! we have had most valuable and sweetly enlivening times together, all love, I believe I hope each of our hearts quickened, to feel fresh and renewed desire to be dedicated to His service, who has thus shown Himself in mercy to our beloved father. What can we render for all these benefits?

Eleventh Month, 3rd.—We attended our beloved father's funeral. Before I went, I was so deeply impressed at times, with love to all, and thanksgiving, that I doubted whether it might not possibly be my place to express it there; but I did, the evening before, humbly crave not to be permitted to do so, unless rightly called to it. Fear of man appeared greatly taken away. I sat the Meeting under a solemn quietness, though there was preaching that neither disturbed nor enlivened me much; the same words still powerfully impressed me, that had done ever since I first entered the room where the corpse was. Upon going to the grave this still continued; under this solemn quiet calm, the fear of man appeared so much removed, that I believe my sole desire was, that the will of God might be done in me. Though it was unpleasant to me, what man might say, yet I most feared it was a tempation, owing to my state of sorrow; but that, I fully believe was not the case, as something of the kind had been on my mind so long; but it had appeared more ripe the last few weeks, and even months, I had so often had to "rejoice in the Lord, and glory in the God of my salvation;" that it had made me desire, that others might partake, and know, how good He had been to my soul, and be encouraged to walk in those paths, which I had found to be paths of pleasantness and peace. However after a solemn waiting, my dear uncle Joseph spoke, greatly to my encouragement and comfort, and the removal of some of my fears. I remained still, till dearest John began to move to go away; when it appeared as if it could not be omitted, and I fell on my knees, and began, not knowing how I should go on, with these words, "Great and marvellous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty, just and true are all Thy ways, Thou King of Saints; be pleased to receive our thanksgiving;" and there I seemed stopped, though I thought that I should have had to express, that I gave thanks on my beloved father's account. But not feeling the power continue, I arose directly: a quiet, calm, and invigorated state, mental and bodily were my portion afterwards, and altogether a sweet day, but a very painful night, discouraged on every side, I could believe by him who tries to deceive. The discouragement appeared to arise principally from what others would think, and nature flinched, and sank, but I was enabled this morning to commit myself in prayer. May I be preserved in future, if my life be spared, from taking Thy holy name in vain; enable me if Thou seest meet, to follow hard after Thee, that I may know Thy voice, Thou Shepherd, and Bishop of souls, and be as one of Thy sheep. It was my prayer this morning, to be able to turn from the subject, as my poor weak mind felt hardly able to look at it, which was in some measure the case. This day has altogether been a comfortable one, though very low at times, and having to walk in the valley; may I be enabled, if it be right for me, to trust and not to fear. I have greatly felt my beloved father's loss to-day; and yesterday, though calm, yet I suffered much on his account; he was in some things, like my heart's delight, I so enjoyed to please him and was so fond of him, that to hear of the sufferings he passed through, before he came to a state of reconciliation, greatly affected me to-day; but I have had more comfort on his account, than anything else. The great love and kindness I have received from them all, and my uncle Joseph, has been encouraging to me; and my husband has been a true helpmate, and sweet counsellor.

Some account of this scene of bereavement, and yet of great consolation, is extracted from the journal of her sister, Rachel Gurney.

" *Monday, October 23rd,* 1809.—To-day my dear father expressed to me his conviction, of the necessity of preparing for another world, whilst health and strength were ours; he said, that he trusted mercy would be extended to him, for all his past errors, and infirmities, and acknowledged thankfully, how he had been blessed with spiritual support; although discouragement and heaviness had been at times his portion.

"A paroxysm of pain, attended with great anguish of mind, caused him to speak despondingly of his condition, and the text, 'If any man say he is without sin, he is a liar, and the truth is not in him,' recurred painfully to him, until reminded of the ensuing verses, 'If any man sin, we have an Advocate with God the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous,' &c., which gave him some comfort, although his mind was burdened, and his spirit oppressed, by the remembrance and consciousness of sin. My sister Catherine pointed out to him the precious promise, 'To him who forgave much, shall much be forgiven,' as applying particularly to his case. This was to him a beaming consolation, and he replied, 'Few men, have, I believe, forgiven more than I have.'

" *Wednesday, October 25th.*—We are now brought (as far as we can judge) to the awful crisis of approaching death!

"On Monday night, a very interesting conversation took place. My dear father spoke of the purity of the law laid down by our Saviour, extending even to the thoughts and desires, and lamented his frequent failings and short comings. He acknowledged that the love of religious truth, and the conscientious practice which characterized his children, had been the means of blessing and instruction to him; and he sought their prayers in the present hour of extreme trial.

"I was composedly observing a holy peace shedding its radiance on his countenance, as he sank that night to rest; and I sat by his bed-side, in the full assurance of faith, that the Lord was present with him, notwithstanding the doubts and fears which had oppressed him. Tuesday was a mournful day. Deep probation of spirit, and grievous depression from bodily illness were his portion, but he wrestled with God in prayer, and grace and help were given him. On Wednesday morning, his mind shone forth in wonderful brightness, and although the spasms of pain, which he endured were agonising, grace appeared to triumph, and his spirit seemed to rise out of the fiery furnace, purified by the Great Refiner. With simplicity and ardour he laid hold on the hope set before him; trusting only in the satisfaction that has been made for sinners, by the blood of Christ. The consolation attendant upon this change in his mind was the greater, from the sore conflicts he had had to pass through in his illness, and the anguish of mind he had endured.

"He was comforted by the presence of his children, who had assembled around him, and expressed to us with tenderness and humble thankfulness, his deep and grateful sense, that he owed more to us than he had been able to give us, and that we had indeed been to him a strength and stimulus in all good things. He continued in the possession of joy and peace until his death which took place on Saturday morning, the 28th of October when he entered (we humbly trust) that region, where the redeemed ones rejoice in the view, as well as feel the influence of their God."

Plashet, Eleventh Month, 16*th.*—We arrived here on Third day evening; though plunged into feeling before I arrived, I felt flat on meeting my tenderly beloved little flock. I was enabled coming along to crave help; in the first place, to be made willing either to do, or to suffer, whatever was the Divine will concerning me. I also desired that I might not be so occupied with the present state of my mind, as to its religious duties, as in any degree to omit close attention to all daily duties, my beloved husband, children, servants, poor, &c.; but if I should be permitted to enter the humiliating path, that has appeared to be opening before me, to look well at home, and not discredit the cause I desire to advocate. Last First day morning, I had a deeply trying Meeting, on account of the words, "Be of good courage, and He will strengthen your hearts, all ye that hope in the Lord," which had impressed me towards Norwich Meeting before I went into it; and after I had sat there a little time they came with double force, and continued resting on my mind until my fright was extreme; and it appeared almost as if I must, if I did my duty, utter them. I hope I did not wholly revolt, but I did cry in my heart, for that time to be excused, that like Samuel, I might apply to some Eli to know what the voice was that I heard, my beloved uncle Joseph, I thought was the person; on this sort of excuse or covenant, as I may call it, a calmness was granted the rest of the Meeting, but not the reward of peace. As soon as Meeting was over, I went to my dear uncle, and begged him to come to Earlham to see me. The conflict I had passed through was so great, as to shake my body as well as mind, and I had reason to fear and to believe, I should have been happier and much more relieved in mind, if I had given up to this little service; I have felt since like one in debt to that Meeting. My dear uncle came, and only confirmed me by his kind advice, to walk by faith and not by sight; he strongly advised a simple following of what arose, and expressed his experience of the benefit of giving up to it and the confusion of not doing so. How have I desired since, not to stand in the fear of man; but I believe it is the soul's enemy seeking whom he may devour, for terrible as it was, as then presented to me, and as it often has been before, yet, when some ability was granted to get through, that same enemy would have had me glory on that account. May I not give way either to one feeling or the other, but strive to look to the preserving power of God.

Twelfth Month, 4th.—When I have given up in the morning only to make an indifferent remark to the servants, on our reading, sweet peace has been my portion; but when it has been presented to me and I have not followed, far different has been the case. In Meeting it is such an awful matter, for the sake of others as well as myself. If it be Thy work in me, be pleased, O Lord! to grant faith and power sufficient for the needful time; I long to serve Thee, and to do Thy commandments, but I believe if I be faithful in the little, Thou wilt be pleased to make me ruler over more.

9th.—Soon after sitting down in Meeting (on Fourth day,) I was enabled to feel encouraged by these words, "Though the enemy come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him." This appeared my experience, for soon the storm was quieted, and a degree even of ease was my portion. About eleven o'clock, these same words that had done so in Norwich Meeting, came feelingly over me, "Be of good courage, and He will strengthen your hearts, all ye that hope in the Lord." And that which had hitherto appeared impossible to human nature, seemed not only possible, but I believe I was willing; simply desiring, that in this new and awful undertaking I might not lose my faith, and that the Divine will might be done in me. Under this sense and feeling, as if I could not omit, I uttered them. Though clearness still continued, nature in a great measure seemed to sink under the effort afterwards, and low feelings and imaginations to have much dominion, which in mercy were soon relieved, and I have gone on sweetly and easily since, often even rejoicing.

11th.—Surrounded with numerous outward occupations, weak in body, and at times tossed in mind, so that the wall of preservation appears almost broken down, yet my heart says, I will not fear but that I shall at last praise Him, whom I desire to be "the health of my countenance and my God." I feel a wish and great necessity, of pressing hard after Him, who alone can preserve me, for when the enemy appears, to whom can I flee, but to Him, whom I desire to call Father? and who has hitherto proved my merciful Protector. Be pleased to keep me in this hour, make me, O Lord! what Thou wouldest have me to be; enable me to become passive in Thy holy hand, mayst Thou be glorified, even if it be through my suffering; and preserve me from ever taking, what is only Thy due, to myself.

22nd.—Again on Fourth day, I have dared to open my mouth in public: I am ready to say, What has come to me? Even in supplication—that the work might be carried on in myself and others, and that we might be preserved from evil. My weight of deep feeling on the subject, I believe, exceeded any other time; I was, I may say, brought into a wrestling state, that the work of the ministry in me might, if right, be carried on if not, stopped short. I feel of myself, no power for such a work; I may say, wholly unable; yet, when the feeling and power continue, so that I dare not omit it, then what can I do?

23rd.—Giving up, to make a little remark after reading to the servants, has brought sweet peace; indeed so far, it has appeared to me, that prompt obedience has brought me the most peace. The prospect of the Meetings next week, more particularly the Quarterly Meeting, already makes me tremble, I can hardly say why, but it is very awful to be thus publicly exposed in a work that I feel so little fitted for; yet, I believe, it is not my own doing, nor at my own command.

Plashet, First Month, 1st, 1810.—It is rather awful to me entering a new year, more particularly when I look at the alterations the last has made—most striking the last three months or a little more! First, a child born; second, the loss of nurse; third, my beloved father's death; fourth, my mouth being opened in Meetings. My heart says, What can I render for having been so remarkably and mercifully carried through these various dispensations of Providence? I think I never knew the Divine Arm so eminently extended for my comfort, help, and deliverance; and though of late I may in a degree have had to pass through the valley of the shadow of death, yet it has not lasted long at a time, and oh, the incomings of love, joy, and peace, that have at other periods arisen for my confirmation and consolation! But the manna of yesterday I find, will not do for to-day.

9th.—In the evening of First day, I expressed what I had long on my mind to the servants, on entering a new year, which brought sweet peace. Yesterday, we dined at my brother and sister Samuel Gurney's—we met there my brother and sister, Hoare, and my brother, Fowell Buxton; I felt afterwards, as if I had not been enough on my guard, in conduct and conversation, indeed I awfully feel my conduct with regard to others, as well as to myself; for it appears strange for those to preach, who do not practice. Oh, for a double watch over thought, word, and deed!

11*th.*—It has been strongly impressed on me, how very little it matters, when we look at the short time we remain here, what we appear to others; and how much too much, we look at the things of this life. What does it signify, what we are thought of here, so long as we are not found wanting towards our Heavenly Father? Why should we so much try to keep something back, and not be willing to offer ourselves up to Him, body, soul, and spirit, to do with us what may seem best unto Him, and to make us what He would have us to be? O Lord! enable me to be more and more, singly, simply, and purely obedient to Thy service!

Second Month, 5th.—The first part of last week I was much occupied in arranging my new household; at least, two new servants, housekeeper and cook. I much felt the weight of filling my place rightly towards the servants, whom I may say, I love; how did I desire to help them, in the best sense, and that I might feel, that, as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord; I may say, there is nothing I desire so much; and the more I know, and the more I wish to follow Him in the way of His requirings, the more sweet do I find the path, and the more desirable does it appear.

19*th.*—Yesterday was an awful, and to me instructive day at Plaistow Meeting. I had not sat very long, before I was brought into much feeling desire that the darkness in some minds might be enlightened; however, no clearness of expression came with it, but under a very solemn covering of the spirit of supplication, a few words offering, I, after a time gave way to utter them; but that which appeared greatly in the cross to me, was having some words presented, to speak in testimony * afterwards, which I did, I believe, purely because I desired to serve my Master, and not to look too much to the opinion of my fellow-servants; and there was to me, a remarkable solemnity, and something like an owning, or accepting, of this poor little offering. I have desired, and have been in a degree enabled to feel a little on that sure foundation; that although the wind may blow, and the rain descend, yet whilst I keep on this Rock, they will not be able utterly to cast me down. What a mercy, amidst the storm, to feel, ever so slightly, something of a sure foundation! Thus much I know, that even if I be mistaken in this awful undertaking, my desire is to serve Him in it, whom my soul, I may truly say, loves and delights to please. O Lord! I pray Thee, preserve Thy poor handmaid in the hour of temptation; and enable me to follow Thee in the way of Thy requirings, even if they lead me into suffering, and unto death.

---

* An expression frequently made use of in the Society of Friends to imply preaching.

Third Month, 23rd.—A small scruple arose in my mind yesterday, with regard to dress; I was almost surprised to find, how unwilling I was to yield to it, not so much from the love of the thing, but disliking to appear so foolish to myself and others, as to mind such trifles. This morning it did not appear, as far as I could judge, to be necessary for me to give up to it; but I believe I may learn a useful lesson from what I experienced yesterday, to feel more for others, for I am too apt to rejoice in the liberty I have in little matters, and it may lead me not to feel enough for those who are more particular. When any little matter arises as a duty on the mind, we should be most cautious in rejecting it; but I think something like trying the fleece wet and dry may be permitted, for such things may be only to see whether we are willing to part with all, even our wisdom, for our beloved Master's sake. Be pleased, O Lord! when Thou seest meet, to call for any proof of my love, to enable me to prove to Thee, to myself, and to others, that indeed I love Thee, and desire to follow Thee, whithersoever Thou mayst lead me.

31*st.*—My little —— has been very naughty; his will I find very strong: oh, that my hands may be strengthened rightly to subdue it. O Lord! I pray for help, in these important duties! I may truly say, I had rather my dear lambs should not live, than live eventually to dishonour Thy great cause; rather may they be taken in innocency, but, if Thou seest meet, O Lord! preserve them from great evils, and be pleased in Thy abundant mercy, to be with them, as thou hast been, I believe, with their poor unworthy parents; visit them, and revisit them, until Thou hast made them what Thou wouldest have them to be. Oh, that I could, like Hannah, bring them to Thee, to be made use of as instruments in Thy Holy Temple! I ask nothing for them in comparison of Thy love; and above all blessings, that they may be vessels in Thy House; this blessing I crave for them, that they may be employed in Thy service, for indeed I can bow and say what honour, what joy so great, as in ever so small a measure, to serve Thee, O Lord!

Early in April, Mr. and Mrs. Fry took a journey into the West of England; from thence was written the following letter to her children at home.

Cowley Bridge.

I suppose my sweet little flock will be glad to hear of the adventures of their dear papa, mamma, Sarah, and baby, and therefore I mean to make as good a story as I can, of what has happened to us in our journey from Mildred's Court to Cowley Bridge. In the first place, we admired the grand houses, and saw the Queen's Palace, and before we had gone much further, we passed near one belonging to the King: but much as I should have liked it, we neither saw King nor Queen.

Of the first day's journey, I do not remember much, except that I often thought of you, who were left at home. There were some beautiful deer feeding in a park, that I think you would have liked very much to see. I almost longed for my little gardeners with our trowels, &c., to get some of the many primroses and violets there were in the hedges. In some places, almost like a carpet of green, blue, and yellow, and the further we have gone, the more we have seen.

On Sixth day night, we slept at Andover, and I felt rather low. I hope, my dear children, you will each try to give me the pleasure when I come home, of hearing you have been going on as I should like.

On our second day's journey, we went up and down a great many hills, till we arrived at Dorchester, where we met dear Anna Buxton, and went with her to a Friend's house at Bridport, who had fourteen children, and one nearly the age of each of you; and they quite enjoyed to hear of you.

To day, we arrived here to dinner, and I hope I find your dear aunt not worse than when we parted from her. The place is very beautiful, hills, vales, and water.

My love to Harriet and Mary Ann, and kind remembrance to all the servants. Yours in tender love,

ELIZABETH FRY.

Soon after her return; to her valued friend, the Rev. Edward Edwards, she expressed her desires and anxieties on account of her children.

Plashet, *Fourth Month, 20th,* 1810.

My dear Friend,

I hope thou art aware that the reason I have not before congratulated thee on thy dear wife's safety, was my absence from home. We do not often feel a stronger call for gratitude than on the birth of a child, not only as it releases from suffering, but also for the sake of the precious charge committed to our trust. I sometimes wish that like Hannah, we may indeed (as it is in Scripture expressed) lend them to the Lord, that they may from their youth, like little Samuel, be devoted to His service. The more we can live under this desire, the better I believe for them, as they should early find there is nothing we desire for them, in comparison to their being servants to Him, whom we may indeed acknowledge, as far as our experience goes, is no hard Master, but that his yoke is easy, and his burden light; and his paths are indeed paths of pleasantness and peace. May we that are fathers and mothers increasingly keep this first and great object in their view, that neither riches, nor knowledge, nor any other thing should be held in competition with it, but that they should early learn that whatever they do, it should be done to the glory of God. I do not doubt that we unite in these desires, but at times, I greatly feel my own weakness, in fulfilling my duty towards them, and desire to look for help, where I believe it is only to be found. Priscilla has just been here, and appears rather tired after her journey; it is sweet to see her amongst us again, she appears very much to have enjoyed her time at Lynn, and says much of your tenderness and feeling towards her. I think, my dear friend, thou wilt believe me, when I say there are none of our particular scruples, if I may so call them, more hard to bear, than those which prevent our uniting with those we nearly love, and esteem highly as examples of the religious life, in their forms of worship, but although it appears safest for us not to unite in the form, yet I hope and believe we do all spiritually unite, and bow before the great footstool in sweet harmony. I should like, if we could have found time and suitable opportunity, to tell thee a little how I have felt some of these things, and perhaps we may one day be more together.

I am glad to hear continued good accounts of thy dear Anne, and with much love to her and thyself,

I remain, thy affectionate friend,

ELIZABETH FRY.

Mildred's Court, Sixth Month, 1st.—Yesterday I attended the funeral of our beloved Anna Reynolds, whose death has been deeply felt by me. We had, I think, I may truly say, a glorious time, for the power of the most High, appeared to overshadow us: a belief of her being in safety, has bowed my soul prostrate, in humble thankfulness, and renewedly led me to desire to prove my gratitude for such unspeakable mercy, as has been showed my near and beloved relations, by my love and entire dedication. I uttered a few words in supplication, at the ground; my uncle Joseph, my cousin Priscilla, and many others beautifully ministered; after Meeting, I might truly say, my cup ran over, such sweetness covered my mind. After a solemn time in the family, with dear cousin Priscilla, and Ann Crowley, I ventured on my knees, praying, that His Holy Hand would not spare, nor His eye pity, until He made us, what He would have us to be; only I craved, that He would not forsake us, but, let us be made in some small measure sensible, that He was with us, and that it was His rod, and His staff, that we depended upon. Through heights, and through depths, through riches, and through poverty; may it alone be my will, to do the will of the Father!

Plashet, 2nd.—I have found it pleasant and refreshing, being again with my beloved family in this sweet place. I have desired that the time spent in the Yearly Meeting, and what I have received there, may return as bread cast upon the waters.

Eighth Month, 10th.—I have thought this morning, I may in a measure adopt the language of the blessed Virgin, "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour." May my being led out of my own family, by what appear to me duties, never be permitted to hinder my doing my duty fully towards it, or so occupy my attention, as to make me in any degree forget or neglect home duties. I believe it matters not where we are, or what we are about, so long as we keep our eye fixed on doing the great Master's work, and that whatever we do, may be done to His glory. When I feel as I do to-day, what a glorious service it is, though we may have at times, to pass through great trial and poverty, and remember how in these little religious services, I have been helped and carried through, and that as I expressed before, my soul hath in a measure been able to magnify the Lord, and my spirit to rejoice in God its Saviour; I fear for myself, lest even this great mercy should prove a temptation, and lead me to come before I am called, or enter service I am not prepared for; but in all these things, I have but one place of safety, to take refuge in. Be pleased, then, O Lord! Thou who knowest my heart, and all its temptations; be pleased to preserve me, and enable me if Thou seest meet, to do Thy will, in strength and in weakness, when it leads to the hardest crosses as well as into the way of rejoicing.

To an early friend, and guest at St. Mildred's Court, she writes describing her outward circumstances and mental exercises about this time.

Plashet, *Seventh Month,* 1810.

My beloved Friend,

As I have been much with thee in mind this morning, I feel inclined to tell thee how sincerely I love thee; I believe in that love which neither time nor distance can affect. Looking back to some account of what I passed through when thou wast at our house long ago, and how nearly I felt united to thee, has brought thee to my remembrance. I have often felt disposed to write to thee, since thou left England, but did not feel my letters worth sending so far; many changes have taken place, since we were together, perhaps more remarkably to me; we have now six little children, three girls and three boys, all well and lovely, and much enjoyment they give us, though at times in looking to their best interest, we are ready to tremble for them: may we do our part, so that we can in faith and humble confidence, look to Him who can alone bless our endeavours. All our beloved parents are taken from us, the loss of my own father, as thou mayst suppose, was a close trial, but I am ready to believe and hope, it brought its blessings to many of us; the great mercy he received at last, from his having a sweet hope and confidence, that through the mercy of his Redeemer, it would be well with him, proved to my mind, I think, the strongest excitement to gratitude I ever experienced, so much so, that it appeared to break the ice for me, and on my knees I publicly expressed my thankfulness. This matter of publicly exposing myself, in this way, has been for many years struggling in my mind, long before I married, and once or twice when with thee, in London, I hardly knew how to dare to refrain. The past I must leave, but I am ready to think extreme unwillingness to give up to this matter, has kept me longer than I need have been in a lukewarm, and at times wilderness estate, however, since a way has thus been made for me, it appears as if I dare not stop the work; if it be a right one, may it go on and prosper, if not the sooner stopped the better. I can hardly doubt that if I am only enabled to cling fast to Him, whose work I believe it is, that I shall experience preservation, though I find my state a new one: I do not understand myself, and find I must walk by faith and not by sight; at times I am permitted to abound and to feel power that I cannot but believe to be beyond myself, at others, brought very low, poor, weak, and almost miserable; my faith tried as to a hair's breadth, yet through all, I have found abundant cause for thanksgiving and praise.

Earlham, Ninth Month, 1st.—Yesterday I had much conversation with my beloved sisters Rachel and Richenda, upon their religious experience, and present belief. At the time I felt very fully strengthened, to express my mind, and not to shrink, and I believe I did no hurt; but I have felt and still feel very low, much pressed down; why, I cannot tell, they represent their case clearly, but can I, after what I have felt, known, and experienced, doubt the truth of this blessed principle; the sensible and constant direction of the Spirit of God in man? The head and judgment of man, is most frail, or it would not twist so many ways; the work of religion, must be in the heart, and if that become sanctified by the great "I Am," and brought low before Him, and our wills be brought into subjection to the Divine will, and He become our all in all; then the great work, appears to me accomplished in us.

Plashet, 10th.—I desire gratefully to acknowledge, my being once more returned home to my beloved family, my little ones appearing to have prospered in my absence, and I hope all going on well. And also I think, with abundant cause to be grateful, that on leaving Earlham, and my tenderly beloved brothers and sisters, my mind felt very clear, trusting that I had been enabled to accomplish that which came to hand to do amongst them; and I hope without hurting the great cause. How very near and dear they are to me. On First day, I attended Ipswich and Colchester Meetings; I believe I was helped in the ministry, in both; if any praise be due, may it be given both by me and others, to the great Author. Spent an interesting evening, with dear old John Kendal.

13th.—It is my great wish, that being engaged in these awful and important duties, may not, in any degree, lessen my attention to the smaller concerns of life; but rather prove a stimulus to do all well: I wish, if right, still to feel a life in them, and not have my mind so occupied by the greater, as not to enter with spirit into the smaller. How much does gratitude call for at my hands at this time? My beloved husband, a true helpmate and sympathizer with me; my health and natural spirits very good; my sweet children going on comfortably and well.

Tenth Month, 5th.—I had yesterday a very narrow escape of my life, from falling out of a whiskey upon my head, owing to a violent jolt; if it had gone on, I believe it must have gone over my head; many have been either killed or materially injured by such a fall. I was at the time favoured with clearness, and knew what to do, and by immediately applying cold water to my head from a pond just by, my suffering was in a great measure relieved. I wonder I have not felt this event more seriously, but I did not, even at the time, feel much frightened, or overcome: I believe I was thinking, only about a minute before, that in case of my sudden death, I had nothing to look to but mercy.

24*th.*—I feel self-love and pride are hidden, very, very deep in me, and may sometimes rise, under specious appearances: I cannot root them out myself; but may I more often than the day, look to Him, who can do it for me.

26*th.*—This day year, a day I think never to be forgotten, whilst memory lasts, my beloved father died! and I first opened my mouth as a minister.

30*th.*—I crave to be in all things doing the will of Him, whom I desire to feel my Master; this is at times hard to come at; I do not feel by any means, a ready and willing servant; still, not willing either to speak a word before meals, or after our reading. My very frequent speaking in Meeting, is very awful to me. Be pleased, O Lord! still to be with Thy poor child, preserve her, if Thou seest meet from right hand as well as left hand errors: increase my faith, and renew a right spirit within me. May neither heights nor depths; riches nor poverty; health or sickness; be permitted to overcome me, and separate me from Thy love; and be pleased, O Lord! to enable me always to give Thee the glory, and not to take it to myself. May I more faithfully do my duty towards Thee, towards my neighbour, and towards myself: when called upon publicly to advocate Thy cause, be pleased to grant me faith sufficient! Create in me a more willing mind, to express whatever may arise, as in the newness of life; whether in public or in private, that the short time of my continuance here, I may in life, conduct, and word, live to Thy glory. Amen, saith my poor soul.

In December, she travelled into Gloucestershire, taking three of her children, to visit Mr. and Mrs. William Fry; her sister Mrs. Fry, was in seriously delicate health, they were residing at that time at Hill House, Rodborough, a very beautiful place, which Mr. Fry had hired, hoping that his wife might derive benefit from the air.

Rodborough, Twelfth Month, 22nd.—I enjoy being here, and the company of those I am with. I trust not in myself, in my own weak and disobedient heart, but I trust in Thee, O Lord! before whom the mountains skip like rams, and the little hills like lambs.

Plashet, 28th.—I may indeed acknowledge a way has been to me wonderfully made, for even my disobedient heart has been brought down, and made willing to submit; may I never forget it, or to whom the power and praise belongs; who capacitated me to do, what to human nature felt impossible, on First day, at Meeting, at Nailsworth. When evening came, after passing through little short of distress of soul, I was enabled, after their reading, to kneel down and offer my little sacrifice, which I felt abundantly helped in, both as to power and utterance; my beloved sister Eliza seemed to feel it extremely, so much so, that I was afraid it might overcome her, and make her ill; but she soon revived, and told me how much she had felt it, and united with me, which was sweet and encouraging. I was enabled to leave that place with a clear and peaceful heart, knowing of no burden.

Plashet, First Month, 5th, 1811.—I find it no easy matter to serve the poor, I desire to do right towards them; but it is very difficult either to turn them away, or to give to all, without doing as much hurt as good. I desire a right spirit about them, and ability to know what is best to be done.

6th.—In the evening the servants and children read with us, and much in the cross to human nature, I believe I may say, my will was subdued for me, and power given to crave a blessing upon us and our household; I felt abundantly helped, and a sweet feeling has been my portion since; like abiding under the shadow of His wing, whom I desire to be my Lord, and my God, my all in all.

11*th*.—Felt very low yesterday evening, rather unusually so for me, partly from the children being naughty and trying. I also feel how poorly my duties are performed towards all. If I be clearer in one description of duty than another, I think it is towards servants; but in that I often have to mourn over my defects. I have felt a little encouragement this morning, and am at times brought to leave others, and their interests, and look and depend upon Him, who can help them, and even listens to the cry of His little ones. As for my beloved children, I had rather they should not be, than have them live to go greatly astray; but let me not forget that if they, like myself, should go astray for a time, there is that Power which can bring them back. Oh, that this may be the case; may they eventually become redeemed from the world, and advocates or valiants in the great cause! It is almost my single desire for them; all others are small in comparison—and as for my beloved husband, oh! that we may be preserved, going hand in hand, and bowing before the Holy One in sweet unity; not turning aside to any other gods, or making to ourselves graven images, and worshipping them.

Second Month, 7th.—Yesterday was to me an awful and affecting day; there came up a minute from the men, desiring the women to meet them after the next Monthly Meeting, to consider the subject of acknowledging me as a minister. Friends felt so kindly for me, as to call me out of meeting to tell me, lest hearing it should overcome me; this was unnecessary, for though I felt and feel it deeply, that was not likely to be the case. It brings me prostrate before the great "I am;" but I have little or nothing to say for myself: certainly, it is cause of humble gratitude, to believe my little offerings in the ministry have not burdened, but been acceptable to the church. O Lord! if it be Thy will to preserve my life yet a little longer, and continue me in this service, preserve me, even if it be through chastisement, from ever hurting Thy great and holy cause, and enable me to walk worthy of the vocation whereunto I am called.

8th.—I have thought this morning, whether we, as a Society, do not suffer more than we need, by expecting too much of ourselves; whether our hope and reliance is sufficiently on Him whom we desire to become our all in all; experience has taught me, that Christ in me, or His saving and anointing power in me, is indeed my only hope of glory. I look not to myself, but to that within me, that has to my admiration proved my present help, and enabled me to do what I believe of myself I could not have done. Under a sense of my own unsubjected will, I do not desire too much to give way to the spirit of mourning, or judging myself, but at once endeavour to turn to Him, and wait upon Him, who can alone strengthen for every good word and work, and will I believe undoubtedly arise, in His own time, for the help of His little dependent ones, and make a way for them, where they see no way. Enable me, O Lord! increasingly to put my whole trust and confidence in Thee.

Her seventh child Elizabeth, was born at St. Mildred's Court rather unexpectedly, on the 20th of February.

St. Mildred's Court, Second Month, 26th.—Though confined to a lying-in-room, and not actively engaged, may I seek in all things to be acting in conformity to the Divine will; for this state has its temptations. May the day's work, whatever it be, keep pace with the day.

The Meeting of which she was a member being satisfied with her ministry, and feeling unity with it, acknowledged her at this time in the character of a minister amongst them. Her course, as such, consequently became more easy to her, from having received the sanction of the Society for such religious services, as she felt herself called upon to perform.

Third Month, 14th.—My husband brought me word in the evening, that Friends had agreed to acknowledge me as a minister. This mark of their unity is sweet, and I think strengthening, and I believe will have advantages, as wells as trials attending it. I feel and find it is neither by the approbation, any more than by the disapprobation of man, that we stand or fall; but it once more, leads me only to desire, that I may simply and singly, follow my Master in the way of His requirements, whatsoever they may be. I think this will make a way for me in some things, that have been long on my mind.

Plashet, Sixth Month, 3rd.—Yearly Meeting is finished: I have renewed evidence that there yet remains a God, hearing prayer, as my inward cries, as well as outward, appear to have been in some instances rather remarkably heard and granted. I have also had renewed evidence, that there yet remains a Gospel ministry, as I have been ministered to, and have known the same with others, and have been I believe enabled a little to minister myself; I could almost believe from the living Source. I have not had much to do in this way, but a little at times, in private and public. I find it an awful thing to rise, amongst a large assembly, and unless much covered with love and power, hardly know how to venture.

19*th.*—I feel at times deeply pressed down, on account of my beloved children. Their volatile minds try me, but amidst my trials I have a secret hope concerning them, that all will end well; and a blessing attend them, if they bow to the blessed yoke, (for so I feel it,) in their youth. May you, if ever you read this, my beloved little ones, hearken to the advice of your tenderly affectionate mother. Submit to the cross of Christ in small matters and in great, there is no way like it; the crown, is in a measure partaken of even here. That no enemy of your souls be permitted to overcome you, or turn your feet into another path, is the sincere desire, nay, prayer of her, who feels your souls' welfare very near to her own; may we all so live, that when time to us here shall be no more, we may unite, and sing praises in eternity. Look at it, what folly, for the sake of self-gratification for a few years, to forfeit even the chance of such a prospect! ah, my children, press forward through all opposition; walking by faith, rather than by sight, for in that alone you will find strength and safety; looking too much out, loses time and creates confusion, whilst humbly looking within, with the eye of faith, and following whatever that may lead into, or out of, tends to confirm, stablish, and strengthen. May the God of peace be with, bless, and preserve you, saith my soul, Amen. O Lord! be pleased to have mercy on them, win them over to Thy love, and teach them that there is no way like Thy way, no joy like Thy joy!

Earlham, Seventh Month, 21st.—I am come with my beloved husband, to attend my dear uncle Gurney's funeral. I cannot easily express my feelings this day, the state of the souls of the family, is so deeply interesting to me. My soul has been laid low, and brought very prostrate, feeling for the various conditions of my beloved family, who are brought together on this awful occasion; desiring for those who have at times to advocate the great cause, that we may get deep enough, and not speak from outward knowledge and observation, but alone move in the great service, as the pure life may lead us into it: may we be enabled to say enough, and preserved from saying too much. Be pleased, O Lord! to grant us tongue and utterance, to show forth Thy praise, that those afar off, may be induced to come, taste, and see, how good Thou art. Be pleased also to anoint their eyes, and their ears, both to hear and see for themselves, that there is none like unto Thee; but that Thou art worthy both now and for ever, to be praised and exalted above all. Amen!

30*th.*—I was weak and low, when tried with bodily pain, and felt my great fearfulness about having my tooth drawn. How very weak I am, but I still hope, if I had believed it my duty, I should have had it done; but none know, but the timid, what a fearful mind has to pass through, even about trifles: whenever strength is granted me, whether about outward or spiritual things, it appears indeed a gift; fearfulness is so much my nature.

Plashet, Eight Month, 23rd.—We had three clergymen and their wives, besides another neighbour and his wife here yesterday; I believe good men, and I hope good women also; I felt love, and I think that sort of unity with them, that I have with good Friends. From a great fear of hurting others, I feel, though I believe it is not very apparent, a bowing to their opinions, and not openly professing my own, which tries me. There, no doubt, are advantages, as well as disadvantages, in associating with people of different descriptions; especially in being with the Good, we are increasingly led to estimate the good in all, and also to observe, how the mercy of our heavenly Father is extended towards us, and how He sees meet to accept us in our different ways. But at the same time, there is safety in keeping within our narrow enclosure, more particularly for young people not established in principle. It may induce them to make the example of others a plea for more liberty, instead of rightly stimulating them to look at home and examine how far they are doing the work committed to them, which should be the effect of seeing others zealously pursuing their course. It is also important, as children become marriageable, with whom they associate, and parents should in this, as in other things, keep on the watch, and seek the best direction how far to go and where to stop. But my feelings of love would lead me almost to encourage an intimacy with one of these clergymen and his wife: but I desire to be rightly directed, and if we are likely to lose more than we gain by not holding fast the profession of our faith without wavering, then I hope not to encourage it; I leave it, thinking it will make its own way, which I trust will be the right one, but Friends being so much united with others, and brought so forward in works of benevolence, may prove a snare by flattering them and taking them off their guard. It is on account of schools that we have been thus brought together.

In establishing herself at Plashet, Mrs. Fry had formed various plans for the benefit of her poorer neighbours, which she gradually brought into action. One of her early endeavours, was to establish a girls' school for the Parish of East Ham; of which Plashet is a hamlet. Immediately opposite the gate of Plashet House, there stood a dilapidated dwelling, picturesque from its gable end and large projecting porch; it was inhabited by an aged man and his still more aged sister; they had seen better days, and eked out a narrow income with the help of the brother's labours in a small garden, and the sale of rabbits, of which they kept a vast quantity. Like persons fallen in life, they were reserved; the sister almost inaccessible. But by degrees Mrs. Fry won her way to the old lady's heart; she might be seen seated in an upper chamber, on one side of a fire-place lined with blue Dutch tiles, opposite the invalid, who, propped by cushions leaned back in an easy chair, in a short white dressing-gown over a quilted petticoat, her thin wrinkled hands resting on her knees, and her emaciated refined countenance brightening under the gentle cheering influence of her guest, as she endeavoured to raise her hopes and stimulate her desires after that country, where it shall be no more said, "I am sick." Annexed to this old building was a spacious and comparatively modern room, which appeared suitable for a school room, and Mrs. Fry's persuasions succeeded in obtaining the consent of the old people to use it as such.

A young woman named Harriet Howell, who was much occupied at that time in organizing schools on the Lancasterian system, came to Plashet. The excellent clergyman of East Ham (alluded to in the journal) Mr. Anlezark, with his lady united with her in the object. A school of about seventy girls was established, and, although afterwards removed to a more central situation continues to the present day.

The bodily wants of the poor, especially in cases of sickness or accident, claimed her careful attention. There was a depôt of calico and flannels always ready, besides outer garments, and a roomy closet well supplied with drugs. In very hard winters, she had soup boiled in an out-house, in such quantities, as to supply hundreds of poor people with a nourishing meal. Nor was her interest confined to the English poor in East Ham. About half a mile from Plashet, on the high road between Stratford and Ilford, the passer by will find two long rows of houses, with one larger one in the centre, if possible more dingy than the rest. At that time they were squalid and dirty. The windows generally stuffed with old rags, or pasted over with brown paper, and the few remaining panes of glass refusing to perform their intended office from the accumulated dust of years; puddles of thick black water before the doors; children without shoe or stocking; mothers, whose matted locks escaped from the remnants of caps, which looked as though they never could have been white; pigs, on terms of evident familiarity with the family; poultry, sharing the children's potatoes—all bespoke an Irish colony.

It was a pleasant thing to observe the influence obtained by Mrs. Fry, over these wild but warm-hearted people. She had in her nature a touch of poetry, and a quick sense of the droll; the Irish character furnished matter for both. Their powers of deep love and bitter grief excited her sympathy; almost against her judgment, she would grant the linen shirt and the boughs of evergreen to array the departed, and ornament the bed of death.

One clear frosty morning, Mrs. Fry called her elder children to accompany her on a visit to one of these cottages. A poor woman, the mother of a young family, had died there, she had been well conducted as a wife and mother, and had long shown a desire for religious instruction; the priest, a kind-hearted, painstaking man, liberal in his views and anxious for the good of his flock, thought well of the poor woman, had frequently visited her in her illness, and was in that as in many other cases, very grateful, to Mrs. Fry for the relief and nourishment she had bestowed, which it was not in his power to give.

On the bed of death lay extended the young mother, her features which were almost beautiful stiffened into the semblance of marble. Her little children were on the floor, the husband, in a corner leaning on a round table, with his face buried in his hands. A paper cross laid on the breast of the corpse; the sun shone into the room, and mocked the dreary scene. The apartment was close, from the fumes of tobacco and the many guests of the wake, which had been held during the night, contrasting strangely with the fresh air which blew in through the half-opened door way. Mrs. Fry spoke soothingly to the husband, she reminded him of his wife's desires for his good, and for that of his children; she slightly alluded to the uselessness of the cross as a symbol, but urged the attention of those present to the great doctrine of which it was intended to remind them. Again, she offered solace to the mourner, promised assistance for his little ones, and left the room.

Some of the scenes in Irish Row were very different, "Madam Fry," as she was called by them, being so popular as to produce some inconveniences and many absurdities. She enjoyed giving pleasure, it was an impulse as well as a duty with her to do good; gathering her garments round her, she would thread her way through children and pigs, up broken stair-cases, and by narrow passages to the apartments she sought; there she would listen to their tales of want or woe, or of their difficulties with their children, or of the evil conduct of their husbands. She persuaded many of them to adopt more orderly habits, giving little presents of clothing as encouragements; she induced some to send their children to school, and with the consent of the priest, circulated the Bible amongst them. On one occasion, when the weather was extremely cold, and great distress prevailed, being at the time too delicate herself to walk, she went alone in the carriage, literally piled with flannel petticoats for Irish Row; the rest of the party walking to meet her, to assist in the delightful task of distribution. She made relieving the poor a pleasure to her children, by the cheerful spirit in which she did it; she employed them as almoners when very young, but expected a minute account of their giving, and their reasons for it. After the establishment of the Tract Society, she always kept a large supply of such as she approved, for distribution. It was her desire never to relieve the bodily wants of any one, without endeavouring in some way, more or less directly, to benefit their souls. She was a warm advocate for vaccination, and very successful in performing the operation; she had acquired this art from Dr. Willan, one of its earliest advocates and most skilful practitioners. At intervals, she made a sort of investigation of the state of the parish, with a view to vaccinating the children. The result was, that small-pox was scarcely known in the villages over which her influence extended.

In a green lane, near Plashet, it has been the annual custom of the Gypsies to pitch their tents, for a few days in their way to Fairlop fair. The sickness of a gipsy child, inducing the mother to apply for relief, led Mrs. Fry to visit their camp; from that time, from year to year, she cared for them whenever they came into her neighbourhood; clothing for the children and people, and a little medical advice she invariably bestowed; but she did far more than that, she sought to influence their minds aright, she pleaded with them on the bitter fruits of sin, and furnished them with Bibles, and books the most likely to arouse their attention.

But though thus abounding in labours for the good of all around her, she was liable to deep inward discouragements, undoubtedly increased by her sensitive nature and delicate frame, but arising chiefly from her intense desire in nothing to offend Him whom her soul loved and whom she so entirely desired to serve.

Ninth Month, 5th.—I have lately been so much hurried by an almost constant change of company and employments, as to be at times a good deal tried, and I am fearful my temper will be made irritable by it. I think I may truly say, my desire is, to do my duty fully and faithfully to all connected with me, nearly and remotely, rich and poor; but I find I cannot satisfy all, and often feel to myself doing almost every thing very imperfectly; a little like the old man and his ass, trying to please every body, and pleasing nobody, and losing his own approbation into the bargain. This I believe is in a measure the case, though not altogether so; perhaps I may one day spend my time to an apparently better account. Be pleased, O Lord! to bless the small feeble endeavours of Thy poor child, to do her duty to others, for without Thy blessing, they are all ineffectual, and with Thy blessing, I need not doubt but they will tend to my own good, and to the good of those I desire to serve, more particularly at home. With my dear little ones I often feel myself a poor mother, but my hope is not in myself, for I am sensible I do not apparently manage them so well as many others do their children; but, O Lord! Thou knowest my heart, and its desires for them, and that I may not be found wanting towards them. I neither ask health nor riches, nor any thing for them in comparison with this, that as they grow in years, they may grow in favour with Thee, and with those who love Thee, by walking in humility and in Thy fear. My feeling of my own great deficiencies towards them and others, at times leads me to take great comfort from the shortness of life, if I be but ready, and have done faithfully the work committed. I fancy I could willingly leave them and all, trusting that better instruments might be raised up for their help; but poor as I am, if it please the Lord to make me an instrument of good to them and others, and to bless my small efforts to serve Him, I believe I should rejoice in keeping alive for some time longer. I feel every week that is pretty well run and towards the end of the Race, that it is well, and a cause of gratitude.

In September, Mrs. Fry visited Earlham. On the 10th of that month was held the first meeting of the Norwich Bible Society; it was very largely and generally attended. Mrs. Fry who was warmly interested in the Bible Society, from its commencement to the close of her life, was present with her brother Joseph John

Gurney and other members of the family. Mr. Gurney, then in the prime of early manhood, on this occasion first took his stand in public life, as an advocate for the general circulation of that sacred volume, which he had chosen as the guide of his youth, and which has proved the stay of his advancing years.

Earlham, *Ninth Month*, 10*th*.—I think a more deeply exercised state, that has at times bordered on distress of soul, I hardly ever remember, than I feel this morning going to Meeting; in the first place, with the Edwards' and my own family, in their various states; in the next place, my prospect of going into the men's Monthly Meeting; and in the last, an idea having passed my mind, whether I may not have, amongst the very large companies who are likely to be here, consisting of many clergymen and others, to say something either before meals, or at some other time. The words that (I believe) have arisen for my encouragement, are these, "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want." Yes, I will try not to fear, for if God be with me, who can be against me?

12*th*.—What can I render for all his benefits? In the first place, I went to the Meeting of worship with the Edwards'. I had not long been there, before I felt something of a power accompanying me and words arose, but my exercise of mind was so great, that it seemed like being "baptized for the dead:" though not that I know of, from any particular fear of man; I was helped (I believe I may say), as to power, tongue, and utterance. That Meeting might be said to end well.

Yesterday was a day indeed:—one that may be called a mark of the times. We first attended a General Meeting of the Bible Society, where it was sweet to observe so many of various sentiments all uniting in the one great object, from the good Bishop of Norwich (Bathurst) for so I believe he may be called, to the dissenting Minister, and young Quaker (my brother Joseph). We afterwards, about thirty-four of us, dined here, I think there were six clergymen of the Establishment; three dissenting Ministers; and Richard Philips, besides numbers of others. A very little before the cloth was removed, such a power came over me of love, I believe I may say, life, that I thought I must ask for silence after Edward Edwards had said grace, and then supplicate the Father of mercies, for His blessing—both of the fatness of the earth, and the dew of Heaven, upon those, who thus desired to promote His cause, by spreading the knowledge of the Holy Scriptures; and that He would bless their endeavours, that the knowledge of God and His glory might cover the earth, as the waters cover the sea; and also for the preservation of all present, that through the assistance of His grace we might so follow Him, and our blessed Lord in time, that we might eventually enter into a glorious eternity, where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest. The power and solemnity were very great. Richard Philips asked for silence, I soon knelt down, it was like having our High Priest amongst us; independently of this power, His poor instruments are nothing, and with His power, how much is effected! I understood many were in tears, I believe all were bowed down spiritually. Soon after I took my seat, the Baptist minister said, "This is an act of worship;" adding that it reminded him of that which the disciples said, "when He walked with us, did not our hearts burn within us?" A clergyman said, "We want no wine, for there is that amongst us, that does instead." A Lutheran minister * remarked, that although he could not always understand the words, being a foreigner, he felt the Spirit of Prayer, and went on to enlarge in a striking manner. Another clergyman spoke to this effect; How the Almighty visited us, and that neither sex, nor any thing else stood in the way of His grace. I do not exactly remember the words of any one, but it was a most striking circumstance, for so many of such different opinions, thus all to be united in one spirit; and for a poor woman to be made the means, amongst so many, great, wise, and I believe good men, of showing forth the praise of the great "I Am." After reading last evening, the dear Lutheran minister, Dr. Steinkoff, said a few words in prayer. This morning, my desire, indeed I may say prayer, is, that this may not degenerate into a form amongst us, and I should not be surprised, if I had to express as much; however, that I leave.

---

* The Rev. Dr. Steinkoff.

Be pleased, O Lord! still to preserve me on the right hand, and on the left, and let me in no way do contrary to Thy will; and if called upon to testify that I can only unite in prayer, where I apprehend Thy Spirit leads into it, enable me I beseech Thee to do it so, as to strengthen, rather than weaken the love that I feel so sweetly to unite me with those who differ from myself.

In a letter from Mr. Hughes, one of the Secretaries of the Bible Society, he thus describes this occasion:—

"On the Monday after my return, I proceeded with my excellent colleagues for Norwich, where a numerous and respectable meeting was held on Wednesday, in a very spacious and commodious hall; the Mayor presided, the Bishop spoke with great decision and equal liberality; and the result of the whole was, the establishment of the Norfolk and Norwich Bible Society; about £700 was subscribed, and one happy amiable sentiment appeared to pervade the company. My colleagues and myself adjourned to Earlham, two miles from Norwich, where we had passed the previous day, and where we witnessed emanations of piety, generosity, and affection, in a degree that does not often meet the eye of mortals. Our host and hostesses were the Gurneys, chiefly Quakers, who, together with their guests, amounted to thirty-four. A clergyman, at the instance of one of the family, and I presume with the most cordial concurrence of the rest, read a portion of the Scriptures, morning and evening; and twice we had prayers, I should have said thrice, for after dinner on the day of the Meeting, the pause encouraged by "the Society of Friends," was succeeded by a devout address to the Deity, by a female minister Elizabeth Fry, whose manner was impressive, and whose words were so appropriate, that none present can ever forget the incident, or ever advert to it, without emotions alike powerful and pleasing. The first emotion, was surprise; the second, awe; the third, pious fervour. As soon as we were readjusted at the table, I thought it might be serviceable to offer a remark, that proved the coincidence of my heart with the devotional exercise in which we had been engaged; this had the desired effect. Mr. Owen and others suggested accordant sentiments, and we seemed generally to feel like the Disciples, whose hearts burned within them as they walked to Emmaus.

"The days passed in this excellent family were opened with joy and closed with regret; few such days will occur again; yet when devotion shall cease to be measured by days, pleasure far more intense shall spring up for ever fresh; and all the members of the vast *Household of Faith* shall behold each other, in a scene where purity is unblemished, and harmony uninterrupted, and bliss complete and everlasting."

"When shall I wake and find me there?"

Plashet, Tenth Month, 3rd.—In the evening, after reading at Earlham, I was greatly helped in prayer for my brothers and sisters, who were all present; it was in thanksgiving and prayer; acknowledging our many blessings, particularly that of being so united with each other, which blessing I craved might increase, that we might increasingly dwell in God and He in us. I also prayed for our little ones, that they with us might have the knowledge of God, and of our blessed Lord Christ Jesus, that we might eventually obtain a habitation not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. It was a very solemn time, many, I believe, wept, and I trust all felt it, and united in prayer. I think I may say I went away rejoicing, which appeared marvellous to me, my season of discouragement had at times whilst there, been so great; but I believe these things tend to keep me low and preserve me, or I might, when so uplifted, be tempted to take my flight. I find on my return much cause for gratitude.

The personal and particular providence of God, in His dealings with men, is never more proved than in the varied and apparently contrary means by which He brings them to a saving knowledge of Himself. In the case of Mrs. Fry, we observe results consonant to her peculiar circumstances, and to the instruments used to awaken her from the sleep of death to a life of righteousness. It is impossible to doubt, but that God Himself, by His Holy Spirit, opened her heart to receive the glad tidings of salvation; although at the time, her knowledge of the great scheme of man's Redemption, appears to have been obscure and indistinct. She was like a mariner, who, not fully acquainted with the chart and compass by which to pursue the voyage, is yet guided by an invisible hand into the Harbour of Refuge. Her heart was dedicated with that reverential love, so conspicuous in her character. Her becoming a minister, awful to her nature, terrible to her as a delicate and timid woman, she yet received with thankfulness; inasmuch as she considered it a token of being owned by Him, and employed in His service. Far different to those, who well versed in the theory of religion, and observant of its outward forms, have not given their hearts to the Lord. The time had however arrived, when He who had great things for her to perform in the world and the Church, so willed it, that this devoted servant should be furnished with all knowledge, as well as spiritual understanding, and having proved the grounds of her confidence, should be able, from the great treasury of Biblical Truth, to give a reason for the hope that was in her.

Some of her sisters having joined the Church of England, from conviction, and at the same time adorning their profession by an eminently spiritual and self-denying life, had its effect upon her; and prepared the way for further intercourse and union with others, who differed from herself in the externals of religion.

In her intercourse with them, she was frequently driven to the defence of her own opinions; and to do this, it became necessary that they should not only be clearly defined to her own mind, but that she should be able so to express them, as to render them intelligible to others.

With Mr. Edwards, Mr. Simeon, Mr. Francis Cunningham, (afterwards her brother-in-law,) and many persons of similar sentiments, she had frequent intercourse. Whilst in some things they differed; as the stream from which they drank diverged into various channels,—she learned to acknowledge that it flowed from the same fountain of everlasting truth. The Bible Society bringing her into contact with many excellent and devoted Christians of other denominations, tended to the same result, and to induce those liberal and expansive feelings towards all whom she believed to love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity, which from that time became marked and growing features in her character.

CHAPTER VII.

1811—1814. Death of a little niece—Journey with Henry Hull and her sister, Priscilla Gurney—Visit to the Meetings of Friends in Norfolk—Extract from a letter to her cousin, J. G. Bevan—Letter to the Rev. Edward Edwards—Death of a domestic servant—Death of Mrs. James Sheppard—Birth of her eighth child, 1812—Letter to her cousin, J. G. Bevan—Removal to London for the winter—Religious visit to Friends of the London Quarterly Meeting—For the first time goes to Newgate, February, 1813—State of that prison.

Soon after Mrs. Fry's return from Norfolk, her baby became seriously ill; scarcely was this anxiety removed, before one of her sisters had the affliction of losing an infant daughter, just the age of Mrs. Fry's little Elizabeth. The event was very affecting to her, and touched her tenderest feelings; her exceeding love of her own little children, extending in an unusual degree to those of her brothers and sisters.

Plashet, Tenth Month, 17*th.*—I was enabled, on First day evening, to pray for my dear children in their presence; since then I have felt more cheerful and easy about them, having committed them to His keeping, who alone can protect them. I am but a poor instrument in His holy hand, His they are; though He may have appeared to give them to us, my heart's desire and prayer is, that like as Hannah with Samuel, they may all be lent unto the Lord. My dear baby is poorly, I desire not to be too anxious about her; but that the Divine will may alone be done in all things, and that I may be enabled to commend her to His holy keeping; not that I feel compunction for naturally desiring her life, and that she may be saved from much suffering.

21*st.*—Much occupied night and day, by the illness of my sweet babe; I was so low in the night, that I shed many tears, a mother's feelings are strong in me;—Oh, that I may be granted a submissive and resigned spirit, and that imagination may not colour the dark side, may I in all my various allotments be enabled to bow in faith, before Him, who orders all things well; even amidst the risings of natural feeling, which, rightly modified, I do not believe to be wrong. I desire, above all, that not my will, O Lord! but Thine be done. Amen, saith my soul.

25*th.*—My dear babe much better; it appears as if my prayer had been heard.

Eleventh Month, 18*th.*—(The day of the funeral of her little niece.) To whom can I go in moments of trial, but to Him who hath hitherto helped me? Be pleased, O Lord! to be with us, and bless the present occasion to us; may it draw us nearer to Thee, and make us increasingly willing to become Thy servants, and Thy handmaids; if any thing should, as a minister come to my hands to do, may I be helped by Thy power, and anointed by Thee, who can alone savingly help us. May the state of my heart be such, that I may with truth say, here am I, Lord, do with me what Thou wilt, only make me what Thou wouldest have me to be. May this event be of lasting benefit to us all; but more particularly to the dear parents. Grant me, O Lord! wisdom and power to proclaim Thy power and Thy praise, that if made use of at all, others as well as myself, may be drawn nearer to Thee, and wholly give Thee praise, never taking or giving that glory to the creature, which alone belongs to the Creator.

Afternoon.—The funeral of dear little Susannah Buxton, has taken place to-day. The event of her death has been very affecting to me, and most unexpected to us all, this day week, she only appeared to have a cold; she was one of the loveliest, sweetest, and most lively of little babes. She appeared to suffer little in her illness. I was not there at her death, but comfort was then near to her dear mother, and faith that strengthened her to believe it was well, and that her spirit had ascended unto God, who gave it. This was very much the case with me when there after her death; but naturally it has been a close stroke, the child was very dear to me, but consolation has been near.

We have had to-day a very solemn, and I trust in the best sense, an encouraging time, the remembrance of it is sweet and reviving to me. I was helped in prayer, greatly as I think, and in a few words afterwards; but may self pass unobserved, for there was a better than man present with us. Words fall very short of expression : Oh, that all would come, taste and see how good the Lord is, for blessed is the man that trusteth in Him, —although like others, he may be afflicted !

Henry Hull, a valuable Friend and Minister from America, was at this time frequently a guest at Plashet. Early in the winter, Mrs. Fry believed it her duty to unite with him in a religious visit to some of the Meetings near London. Her sister, Priscilla Gurney, accompanied them ;—they were absent about a fortnight.

Twelfth Month, 28*th.*—My heart is very full this morning at the prospect of this journey ; the tears rise in my eyes, for it appears probable that we shall be out longer than I at first expected. I have something of a confidence that my beloved family will be cared for in my absence. My prayer for myself is, that I may not run without being sent ; and if the gift in me grows and increases with exercise, may I ever be preserved from decking myself with the Lord's jewels.

Plashet, First Month 13*th*, 1812.—I returned safely home yesterday, and to my great comfort found all my beloved children well and good. My beloved husband is gone into Wales ; all my household appear in very comfortable order ; and so far from having suffered in my absence, it appears as if a better blessing had attended them than common ; thus much for them, now for myself—I may, I trust, with gratitude acknowledge, that I have in my religious duties, experienced the Lord to go before me, and to prove my rear-ward, I have naturally been in a low estate, much felt my absence from home, and have not been well in my health. I have also in a spiritual sense been often brought low, under a peculiar feeling of some of my infirmities, and great fear of the power of the tempter. I have felt much increased value and love for Henry Hull, and dear Priscilla has been a sweet, kind, and valuable companion ; may our union be farther cemented. My desire for myself on my return is, that I may walk within my house with a perfect heart.

Second Month, 1*st.*—On reading over my old journals yesterday, it has led me to admire how some of my early prayers and desires have been answered; how gradual has been the arising and opening of Divine Power in my heart. How much has occurred to strengthen my weak faith, and doubting, fearful heart; how much has been done for me, and how little have I done myself; how much have I rebelled, except in the day of power; how often unwatchful, yet in mercy, how has help been administered, even a willing heart, which I consider an unspeakable gift: but I think I should have flourished better, and grown stronger by this time, had I more fully and more faithfully followed the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. My heart's desire and prayer for myself, above everything else, is, that this may be more entirely done by me. O Lord! be pleased still to carry on Thy own work in me, until Thou hast made me what Thou wouldest have me to be; even entirely Thy servant, in thought, word and deed! Thou only knowest my weakness and fear of suffering; when in Thine infinite wisdom, Thou mayst see meet to afflict, be pleased to mix mercy with judgment, and uphold me by Thine own power; I thank Thee for all Thy benefits towards me, and desire to prove my gratitude by my love and good works. O Lord! enable me so to do? Amen.

3rd.—The prospect I have had for some months of going into Norfolk, to attend the Monthly and Quarterly Meetings, is now brought home to me, as I must apply to my next Monthly Meeting for permission. It is no doubt a sacrifice of natural feeling, to leave the comforts of home, and my beloved husband and children; and to my weak nervous habits, the going about, and alone (for so I feel it in one sense without my husband) is, I have found from experience, a trial greater than I imagined; and my health suffers much, I think, from my habits being necessarily so different. This consideration of its being a cross to my nature, I desire not to weigh in the scale; though no doubt for the sake of others, as well as myself, my health being so shaken is a serious thing. What I desire to consider most deeply is this:—Have I authority for leaving my home and evident duties? What leads me to believe I have! for I need not doubt but that when away, and at times greatly tried, this query is likely to arise. The prospect has come in that quiet, yet I think powerful way, that I have never been able to believe I should get rid of it; indeed hitherto I have hardly felt anything but a calm cheerfulness about it, and very little anxiety. It seems to me as if in this journey I must be stripped of outward dependences, and my watchword appears to be, "My soul wait thou ONLY upon God; for my expectation is in Him."

6*th.*—My beloved little ones have been ill with a severe cold, and my sweet babe has so very serious an attack, and one that has now lasted some days, that I believe her life is thought to be in danger. I have suffered a good deal, the most in the night; my desire for myself is, to be enabled to submit to the dispensations of Almighty wisdom, and that faith may be granted me, to drink the cup, whatever it may be, as coming from the Lord's holy hand; nothing doubting but that it will be ordered in infinite wisdom and mercy. Natural feelings I do not desire to be without, for I had rather have them, if under proper subjection. Jesus wept, may not we? I feel much gratitude that her sufferings appear comparatively small, and rather to decrease; if I could have a prayer on her account outwardly, it would be that she might be spared much suffering; but I desire and pray above all things, that I may leave all to Him, who has dealt with me and my little ones in unspeakable mercy, that He will yet watch over us for good, and not permit us to suffer more than is best for us. How much better to have her life cut short in innocency, than for her to live to that state in which her sins should have separated her from her God. Be pleased, O Lord! to grant Thy poor servant and her little one, strength sufficient for the day, and whether mourning or rejoicing be my portion, may it work together for my good, and make me a better servant to Thee. Amen, and Amen.

7*th.*—A few hours after I last wrote, a change took place in the dear babe for the better, and the amendment has been gradual since. I have not found it easy to feel this great relief rightly; I desire to receive it as from the blessed hand that makes sore and binds up, that wounds and make whole.

20*th.*—My sister, Elizabeth Fry, means to go with me into Norfolk; my uncle Joseph is likely to go another way: it appears as if I could not mind much who is to go with me. But I feel disposed to a very single dependence, and if I be rightly put forth to this service, may He who puts me forth be with me, if I have to administer food to others, may it be that which is convenient for them, and that will tend to their lasting nourishment. I have often thought that, in this little prospect, I must go like David, when he went to slay the giant. I am ashamed of the comparison ; but I only mean it in this respect, I go not trusting in any power, or strength of my own ; I feel I dare look to no helper outwardly. I feel young and a stripling, without armour, yet I trust the Lord will be with me, and make the sling and stone effectual, if He please to make use of His poor child to slay the giant in any one.

Earlham, Third Month, 14*th.*—Have I not renewed reason for faith, hope, and confidence in the principle which I desire to follow. In the night I had to acknowledge that the work must be Thine, O Lord ! and that it is to me wonderful. My fears and causes of discouragement were many, for some little time before I set off, my own poor health, and my little ones ; then my lowness and stupidity. In the first place, my health and the dear children's improved so much, and I inwardly so brightened, that I left home very comfortably. As I went on my way, such abundant hope arose, that light, rather than darkness appeared to surround me. I have now attended the Monthly Meetings, and three other Meetings. I have also had frequent opportunies of a religious nature, in families ; the most remarkable, were, one in a clergyman's family, in supplicationf or him and his house, and another, where he had to supplicate for my help. May I ever remember how utterly unfit I am in myself for all these works : unto me alone belongs abasedness. I can take nothing to myself. As Thou hast seen meet, O Lord ! Thou who art strength in weakness, thus to make use of Thy poor handmaid, as an instrument in Thy service, be pleased to keep her from the evil, both in reality and appearance, that she never may in any way bring reproach upon Thy cause !

16*th.*—I expect my beloved brother, John, may be here today ; may I be enabled so to walk before him, in humility and godly fear, (not the fear of man,) that he at least may be enabled to believe I am not following cunningly devised fables, or imaginations of my own, but rather seeking to follow a crucified Redeemer, in the way in which He leads me.

In a letter to her cousin, Joseph Gurney Bevan, she thus enlarges on the duties in which she was engaged:—

May I now be enabled to attend to my own vineyard, and after having been made instrumental thus to warn and encourage others, may I not become a cast-away myself. I hardly understand what Friends mean by reward for such services, for I do not feel the work mine, and no reward is due; as for reward, is it not enough to feel a Power better than ourselves influencing and strengthening us to do the work that we humbly trust is His own? for what honour, favour, or blessing so great, as being engaged in the service of Him whom we love, in whatever way it be, whether performing one duty or another, and having a little evidence granted us, that we are doing His will, or endeavouring to do it. I peculiarly feel in ministerial duties that I have no part, because the whole appears a gift,—the willing heart, the power, and every thing attending it; the poor creature has only to remain as passive as possible, willing to be operated upon.

Plashet, Third Month, 28th.—I will first mention how it was with me in the Norwich Quarterly Meeting. I went, looking to Him who has hitherto helped me; my beloved uncle Joseph said a few words, as a seal to what I had expressed, and it was, I believe, a peculiarly solemn and favoured time: much blessed in a few words of supplication, at the Grove, before dinner. In the adjourned Meeting, I felt it safest to go the Men's Meeting, where I had to bid them farewell in the Lord; after I had been helped with a few words of tender love and encouragement, Sarah Bowly said a little, and then my dear sister Elizabeth arose, and said, "She hoped what had passed that day, would not be attended to as a tale that was told, but as everlasting truths;" which appeared to me to bring great solemnity and sweetness with it. In the Women's Meeting, we also had a very solemn time at parting, in which I bade them farewell; desiring that we might all ascend, step by step, that ladder which reaches from earth to heaven. Before we set off, I had, after reading, in heart-felt and heart-rending supplication, to pray for the preservation of the family, and our support in the day of trial; and amidst all the various turnings and overturnings of the Holy Hand upon us. Here I once more am, surrounded by outward blessings and well in health; yet I hardly know how to return thanks, or to rejoice in Him who has helped me, being poor, low, stripped, the tears come into my eyes. Though cast down, I love the Lord above all, and desire, through the saving redeeming power of Him, who came to save that which was lost, and has, I believe, proved a Saviour to me *in part*, that I may draw nearer and nearer to the most high God, and become in all things, more completely His.

No one can read the expression, "in part," as applied to the Saviour's complete and finished work, without having his attention arrested by it; a letter which is here introduced to the Rev. Edward Edwards, explains that her use of these words arose not from any mistrust of the saving power of Christ, but from her consciousness that the great work of sanctification in her heart was incomplete and unfinished.

My beloved Friend,

Thy letter is one I do not desire lightly to answer, as I wish to receive it and attend to it with the seriousness it deserves, as coming from one, who I believe desires the prosperity of truth individually and generally, and in this desire, has with love addressed me for my own good, and also the good of the body to which I belong. I hope to profit by it; I am spiritually but a child, "I think as a child, I speak as a child, and I understand as a child." I do not believe that the great mysteries of the gospel are by any means fully opened to me; but my dependence is on Him who has so far opened my eyes, that He will in His own time further enlighten me, confirm, settle, and strengthen me in that faith which is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Thus far I believe, from having experienced what it is to feel alienated or separated from my God, no doubt by corruptions and sin. I experienced the state of being under the law; I may truly say, "I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, dwelleth no good thing; for to will is present with me, but how to perform that which is good, I find not; for the good that I would I do not; but the evil which I would not that I do." Thus I have experienced and do yet experience, that it is not in me, or my fleshly nature, to do or to will any good thing. Then how naturally do these words arise, "O! wretched man, (or woman,) that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" Then comes the Saviour, then comes the Deliverer, to whom can I go, but to Him, who alone has the words of eternal life? I feel ashamed of now bringing my experiences forward, as it is with humility and confusion of face that I may acknowledge, I have also felt what it is in a measure to be in Christ Jesus; "for the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus, maketh us free from the law of sin and death; for what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in those who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit." I have thus quoted Scripture, because I know no other way of so clearly expressing my own faith, and experience in measure, and also what I believe to be the faith of the body, (though there may be unbelievers amongst us as well as others,) that we lay aside all our own works, and believe we neither will nor do of ourselves, but that it is God, or the saving power of Christ, that worketh in us to will and to do; that we desire alone to give all the glory to Him, of whatever is done to his praise, believing Him to be the author and finisher of our faith, and our only hope of glory. The work of regeneration is a gradual one, and I feel, if alive at all, only a beginner, therefore do not understand that I feel free from the law of sin and death; but I believe if the spirit of Christ in us be permitted to operate, and is not resisted by our wills, we may experience a being made free from the law of sin and spiritual death, even here below.

Fourth Month, 4th.—Since I last wrote, I have been afflicted inwardly and outwardly; I have had a more serious attack of illness than I have had for many months. It led me to consider, if taken hence, where would be my hope? To feel an operative faith, of being accepted through the mercy of God in Christ, is a gift which we cannot command. Oh! that my soul may be more deeply anchored in this faith, that nothing may be permitted to shake it: I also find, that without the present gift of faith, I cannot commit my beloved husband and children to His holy keeping, who can alone preserve them.

16*th.*—I am poorly, and I believe five of my dear children have the hooping-cough; but all appears light, nay, more than light, such sweetness has covered my mind, little short at times of joy and peace, as if no alloy were permitted to take hold; so are we dealt with, not according to our merits, but to His mercy, who careth for His poor dependent ones, and enlivens them when He seeth meet.

This letter to her brother, John Gurney, undated, was obviously written during this spring, not long after her Norfolk journey.

My dear John,

I feared thou wouldest almost think me forgetful of thee in not having expressed my near interest in thy welfare for so long; but feeling very low this morning, to whom can I write better than to one who mourns, and can sympathize with me, though our causes for suffering may be different. I hope my last letter did not hurt dear Catherine and Rachel. I have felt fearful how far it was right for me to touch upon their present state, lest I should hurt the cause I most desire to advocate; I am therefore cautious of saying much, but I very deeply feel the state of the family, believing it not unlikely they will leave a path that has to me appeared a remarkably blessed and safe one; and not only to so weak an instrument as I am, but surely there have been many in our family, that in the same path have done credit to the Christian cause. However, I desire to leave it, if in ever so small a degree my tears and prayers, (when enabled to offer them,) may prove effectual in desiring preservation for you all, that after trying all things, you may indeed be enabled to hold fast that which is good, even if it lead you into a different path from me ; but I acknowledge it has been sweet to me, whenever I have had a hope that the day might come, when we should fully unite in spiritual things ; but if it never should, may true charity and love be our portion ; I mean that spirit of charity that comes from above, and unites all true and sincere travellers Zion-ward. I should much like soon to hear from you ; with regard to thee and Rachel I have no fear about your love for me, for I could believe, much as we have differed, we have never been separated ; indeed, dear John, when thou lived to the world, how did my soul pant after thee, what tender solicitude have I felt on thy account, and now I do indeed rejoice in thy experience. I cannot think, if when we felt so very differently, we loved so much, now that we desire to be following the same Master, and to be devoted to the same cause, we shall be separated)—I believe it cannot be.

Fragment found between the leaves of her journal, about this date.

Plan to try for children. Boys sent to tutor, after our reading. Little ones with me till nearly ten o'clock ; again from two to three ; from after dinner till seven. See the elder girls at lessons twice during the morning, and have them with me from one till two ; boys and girls from seven till eight, together ; besides their being at meals now and then.

Plashet, Fourth Month, 24th.—To whom can I go when brought into straitened places, but to Him who has hitherto succoured me, in His own way? Snares are apt to beset me on every hand ; for there are left, as well as right hand errors. I expected to remain pretty quietly at home, but I have been four times to Meeting this week. Seldom have I had to move much more in the cross than on Third day ; how did I naturally flinch, how did I recoil at a prospect which came unexpectedly upon me, of going into the Men's Meeting at Plaistow. In the Meetings for Discipline, I sought Him to whom power belongeth, and in His power, His people are made a willing people; I believe my prayers were heard; and may I, as need to be the case with all pilgrims, who seek to go Zion-ward, not turn from any thing, from unwillingness and impatience. May we rather seek Him, who "giveth power to the faint, and to him that hath no might He increaseth strength."

Sixth Month, 16*th*.—It now appears too late to give much account of the Yearly Meeting. The prospect of going into the Men's Meeting, naturally was so awful, nay, almost dreadful, that as I sat at breakfast, fears arose lest my understanding should fail; however, though in great measure taken from me, upon first sitting down in Meeting, yet after a time the concern arose with tranquillity, and with a powerful, though small voice, at least with power sufficient to enable me to cast my burden upon the Meeting; this brought, I thought, great solemnity, I appeared to have the full unity of Friends, dear Rebecca Bevan went with me; I felt myself much helped when there; matter, tongue, and utterance were all given in testimony and supplication. I think the calm frame I enjoyed, upon returning into the Women's Meeting, must almost be a foretaste of that rest which the soul pants after.

Sixth Month.—My press of engagements has been very great, in the first place, the deep affliction of our much-loved friend, Henry Hull. He having received letters, to say, that his wife, son, mother, and brother-in-law, were all dead of a contagious fever, and the lives of the rest of the family very uncertain; much as he suffered, he bore it like a man and a Christian, so as to encourage, rather than try my faith; it of course took up my time and attention, to wait upon, and care for him. We have had a very large family party, my brother and sister Fry, three children, and servants; my sister Elizabeth, and cousin Sarah, besides many Friends backwards and forwards: also much illness in the house, my sister and her nurse, and also her baby, very dangerously ill. These have all been objects of care, and interest, so that I am sorry to say, I have been at times so weighed down, and panting for rest, that I have been almost irritable, and

I fear not enough estimated the value of their company, or the comfort of being able to serve them; but I hope my health may be some excuse for me, for they are very dear to me. I think my temper requires very great watchfulness, for the exercises of my mind, my very numerous interests, and the irritability excited by my bodily infirmities, cause me to be in so tender and touchy a state that the "grasshopper becomes a burden." In this, as in all my infirmities, I have but one hope; it is in the power of Him who has in mercy answered my prayers, and helped me in many of my difficulties, and I humbly trust yet will arise for my deliverance. As to the ministry, I have been raised up and at times cast down, but my heart and attention have been mostly turned to rigidly performing my practical duties in life, which is my object by night and by day I have felt, as if I could rest in nothing short of serving Him whom my soul loves, but I desire to watch, and am fully aware that with regard to myself, I have nothing to trust to, but mercy; but leaving myself, I long whilst permitted to remain in mortality, not to be a drone, but to do every thing to the glory of God. I think I desire to do all things well, more for the cause sake, than for the sake of my own soul, as my conviction of the mercy and loving-kindness of Him who loveth us, and who is touched with a feeling of our infirmities, is so great, that whilst my heart is seeking to serve Him, (full as I am of defects,) I am ready to trust that, that mercy which has hitherto compassed me about, will be with me to the end of time, and continue with me through eternity. The fear of punishment hardly even arises, or has arisen in my mind, it is more the certain knowledge that I have, of the blessedness of serving our Master, and the very strong excitement of love and gratitude, and desire for the promotion of the blessed cause upon earth. Through all my tried states, I have one unspeakable blessing to acknowledge; and that is, an increase of faith.

Seventh Month, 3rd.—We have for the last week been alone, which appears greatly to have recruited soul and body; I much wanted this time with my dear husband and children, it has enabled me to turn my attention to my home duties, and I trust I may rest pretty easy in believing things are generally in good order, as to servants, children, &c., &c. The poor may want a little further investigation; I feel thankful in thus being enabled to stop and examine the state of my family and house. How much have I to be thankful for, though all may not be quite what I wish; how many valuable dependants I have: those who I believe love us, and that which is good; some I hope will remain our friends for life. My beloved children who are come almost to an age of understanding, I long to see more under the Cross of Christ, and less disposed to give way to their own wills; I sometimes indulge them too much when young, I mean very little, and perhaps their nurses do so too. I could desire, though it appears asking a great deal, as to things temporal, that if right for us, we may be able through life to live in the open liberal way we do now, endeavouring to make all around us comfortable, and that we may be able to continue generous friends to the poor· I fear to be much limited would be very difficult to me, I desire that my attention being so much turned to things temporal, may not hinder my progress in things spiritual; I do not believe it injurious to have the natural part occupied in natural things, provided all be done under subjection, and with a single eye to the service of our great Master.

Plashet, Eighth Month, 14th.—Eighteen, in addition to our own family, slept here last night; we passed a comfortable, and, I hope, not an unsatisfactory day. When surrounded by many of my own family, I desire to be preserved from the spirit of judgment, but I find it difficult not to be on the watch with those who have been outwardly baptized; how far the living baptism shines forth in them, and enables to renounce the devil and all his works, the pomps, lusts, and vanities of this present world. Surely, saith my soul, there is but one saving baptism, even that which redeems from the world; and I more and more, think I see the danger of the outward form or ordinance, lest any should deceive themselves that they are baptized into Christ, when in reality they know little about it; not that I judge those before alluded to, but there is need of further washing, I believe, in them and in me.

Ninth Month, 2nd.—This morning our poor servant who has for some weeks kept his bed very seriously ill, died. I feel that I have cause for humble gratitude, in having been at the awful time strengthened by faith, and I believe, I may say, having experienced the Divine presence near; I have often sat and watched by his bed-side, desiring to know whether I had any thing to do or say, as to his soul's welfare. I found neither feeling, faith, nor ability, to say or do much more than endeavour to turn his mind towards his Maker, but I think never more than once in anything of the anointing power. Yesterday morning I found him much worse, a struggle upon him, that appeared breaking the thread of life, and his sufferings great, mentally and bodily. The first thing I found in myself was, that a willing mind was granted me, and in sitting by him, the power and spirit of supplication and intercession for him arose, to which I gave way; it immediately appeared to bring a solemn tranquillity, his pains and restlessness were quieted; his understanding I believe was quite clear, he thanked me, and said once or twice, "God bless you, ma'am," as if he felt much comfort in what had passed. Faith, love, and calmness, were the covering of my mind. He had, I believe, only one or two more slight struggles after I left him; after that I was sent for, and found that the conflict appeared over, and he breathed his last in about a quarter of an hour. There was peculiar sweetness, and great silence and solemnity in the room. I had to acknowledge that I believed the mercy of our Heavenly Father was then extended towards him, and to express a desire, that it might in the same awful moment be extended towards us, feeling how greatly we stood in need of mercy. The rest of the day passed off as well as I could expect; I feared lest the servants and others should attribute that praise to me, with which I had nothing to do, for I could not have prayed, or found an answer to prayer, without an anointing from the Most High. It led me to feel it a blessing to be entrusted with this sacred and precious gift; for though ministers may have much to pass through, and many crosses to take up, for their own good and that of others, yet, it is a marvellous gift when the pure life stirs, operates, and brings down strongholds. My nerves were rather shaken, so as to make me naturally fearful, at times, the rest of the day. I have a great desire, that this event may be blessed to the household, more particularly the servants, that it may humble and bow their spirits, that they may live more in love, and grow in the knowledge of God, and of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

It will be difficult for those who knew Mrs. Fry only in later life, and her zealous endeavours to obtain for all within her reach religious instruction, and the hearing or reading of the Bible, to comprehend her not affording a member of her own household, under serious protracted illness, more regular instruction on matters of such vast importance. The dispensation into which she had been brought, acting upon her timid nature, induced extreme fear of "running before she was sent," or treading "unbidden upon holy ground;" when, on the contrary, she believed that it was the Master's voice which called, there was neither place nor circumstance that could arrest her steps.

After a time, it pleased Him, who was guiding his servant according to the purposes of His own will, by an increased acquaintance with human nature, and more general association with all sorts of men, to teach her, that the Omnipotent works by outward providences and second causes, and that whilst the Holy Spirit can alone bless and fructify the seed, it is none the less the duty of man in simple obedience to the written word, to use every opportunity in his power to sow the good seed, trusting to God to give the increase.

The funeral of the servant was fixed for the following Sunday; as the time approached, Mrs. Fry felt an earnest desire arise in her heart, that the occasion might be one of benefit to others as several of his friends were to be present; some from the immediate neighbourhood.

She proposed that in the evening all the assembled guests should be invited to attend the family reading with her own household, but before the hour arrived for the performance of a duty, which was to her exceedingly weighty, she was summoned to visit Eliza, the newly married wife of her cousin Mr. James Sheppard, who was rapidly sinking into the grave. The afflicted husband and sister were deeply needing the skilful tenderness with which she could meet such exigencies. At Meeting, in the morning, her heart had been strengthened, and apparently prepared for the duties of the day. By the bed of languishing we find her, waiting for that unction, without which she was sensible that her services could avail nothing; and the same evening, in her own dwelling, when surrounded by about forty besides her children, she speaks in exhortation and prayer. Her address was closely suited to the state of some persons present, and unflinchingly did she impress upon them, that the "way of transgressors is hard." The occasion was long remembered by individuals who were there, and who attributed their permanent improvement to the solemn truths they then heard; and for the first time, effectively received into their hearts. Her own journal of the day, written the following morning, pourtrays the workings of her mind.

Plashet, Ninth Month, Second day.—Yesterday was rather a remarkable one. I rose very low and fearful, though I am almost ashamed of acknowledging how it was, and has been with me after so many deliverances; but my spirit appeared overwhelmed within me, partly I think from some serious outward matters, but principally from such an extreme fear of my approaching confinement, feeling nothing in myself to meet it, and knowing that it must come unless death prevent it. I went to Meeting, but was almost too low to know whether I should go or not; however, being helped in testimony to show the blessedness of those who hope in the Lord, and not in themselves, appeared to do me good, as if I had to minister to myself as well as to others; I had a trust that my help was in the Lord, and that therefore I should experience my heart to be strengthened. A message came requesting my immediate attendance on poor dear Eliza Sheppard, who appeared near her end, of course I went. These visits are very awful; to sit by that which we believe to be a death-bed; to be looked to by the afflicted and others, as a minister from whom something is expected, and the fear at such a time of the activity of the creature arising, and doing that which it has no business to do. After sitting some time quiet, part of which she appeared to sleep, and part to be awake, a solemn silence covered us, and words of supplication arose in due time; when I believed her to be engaged in the same manner, by her putting her hands together, I knelt down and felt greatly helped, but had not so much to pray for her alone, as for all of us there present with her. I had a few words also to say in taking leave; the visit appeared sweet to her by her smiles, and her whispering to her sister expressing this. Thus ended this solemn scene, her husband, her own sister and brother, and dear Elizabeth Gurney were present; dear Eliza Sheppard's mind appeared in a truly calm, resigned state. I returned home in rather more than an hour, when the prospect of the evening felt very serious to me. After poor John's funeral, I wished the servants, and those who attended it and were disposed to do so, to be present at our reading. The party were in all about forty, many young people, and others. We first read two chapters in Matthew; after a pause, I knelt down, and had to supplicate, first, for all the party; afterwards, for our own household, more particularly for the servants; in all which I was helped, and a very solemn silence followed. The party broke up; I think I found myself strengthened, rather than weakened, by the day's work, mentally and bodily, though my own great weakness soon returned upon me, and it appeared striking that such an one should have been so engaged, but painful as these feelings of depression are to bear, I know "it is well," as it keeps me humble, at least I hope so, lowly and abased. Oh! saith my soul, after thus ministering to others, may I not become a castaway myself, and neither in trouble, or rejoicing, bring discredit on the cause that I love, or on His name whom I desire to serve.

Plashet, 10*th*.—A hopeful, and I trust thankful frame of spirit, may the praise be wholly and entirely ascribed where the praise is due, for neither in myself, nor in any outward thing or person, can I at times receive consolation, unless the Divine blessing attend. Enable me, O Lord! to rejoice in Thee, and to give Thee thanks, that Thou hast so far seen meet to relieve me from my fearfulness, and the captivity I have been in. Oh! it is a blessed thing to know that there yet lives a Saviour, ready to help our infirmities, blessed be His holy name for ever. In Him do I trust, not in myself; be pleased, O Lord! to confirm, establish and strengthen my feeble heart, that I may rightly and fully ascribe glory, honour and power to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yet feeling all as one, and but as mighty parts of the same eternal, invisible, and invincible power. Whatsoever be taken from me, may this faith live, grow, and increase abundantly!

Her eighth child was born September 12th, 1812. Writing very soon afterwards to her cousin, Joseph Gurney Bevan, she thus records her thankfulness.

Plashet, *Fourth day.*

My beloved Cousin,

I am safe, and I have a sweet little girl. What can I render? My heart feels this morning rather overwhelmed within me. I hope not without love to the great Master; but how sweetly has it flowed towards many, whom I believe to be more or less His followers. I have particularly felt it towards my much-loved Friends in Gracechurch-street Meeting. My spirit has felt amongst you; I hope you do not forget me, for I do not forget you; with what love have you as a body been brought to my remembrance, many individually. May we each fill our respective ranks, none drawing back, but stepping forward in the cause of righteousness. Though I have been long out of sight, yet I trust I am not quite out of the minds of many, but I desire the prayers of the church, for preservation, and more full dedication and resignation in all things to the Divine will. It would be very pleasant to see thee, or any of those whom I feel so near (though so unworthy of it yet I could hope) in the covenant of life. My heart has also been so filled with love towards the

Friends of my own Quarterly Meeting, that I could have written them a letter of love.

17*th.*—It appears due for me to acknowledge the tender mercies and loving-kindness of a long-suffering God, in my late safe deliverance, though at times tried by various feelings of weakness, yet I have been permitted to find the healing virtue near, keeping soul and body, the calming influence of which has at times been very sweet; at others, my heart has had to flow with love towards many. No doubt my late confinements have been precious seasons wherein the love of the Father has been present with me; though occasionally at others, brought very low, and tried by bodily and mental infirmities. Enable me, O Lord! to render all the praise to Thee, and yet to trust and not be afraid.

Plashet, Ninth Month, 28*th.*—When my spirits are low, I am apt to feel leaving the country, which is proposed for the winter. I am almost surprised at myself, the tears have often risen; very few indeed, I believe none know, how sweet the quiet and the beauties of the country have been to me; it takes hold of some of my tender feelings.

Mildred's Court, Eleventh Month, 24*th.*—I arrived here last evening to settle for the winter, after a very encouraging Public Meeting, with dear William Forster, at Plaistow, which I believe did me good; I felt the Power near, it appeared to cover us and the assembly, though I passed through much in the Meeting, so as to shake me very much; but truth appeared to me to come into dominion, which was cause for humble gratitude. May I be enabled to perform my duties, at home and abroad.

Mildred's Court, Twelfth Month, 11*th.*—Yesterday, I experienced liveliness of spirit, without any apparent cause; nothing but free mercy and grace, for I think, as far as I was concerned, I was rather rebellious after reading, than otherwise. It is an unspeakable source of gratitude, to feel alive spiritually, even to feel condemnation; for without that, how can we understand what justification is? these spiritual dispensations, are, indeed, like the wind that bloweth where it listeth: yet my belief is, amidst them all, whatever they may be, whether abounding or suffering be our portion, that it is infinitely important to be found doing the will of God, if we expect our houses to stand, amidst the various storms and trials we are brought into; for although we may appear to ourselves dry, sterile, and "unfruitful as the barren sand;" yet, there is the conviction granted of being founded on a rock that nothing can shake. Not that I desire to boast of the works of obedience, for after all they will not do alone, for even in them, how much do we fall short! our dependence must be, after having even done our best, on the mercy of God in Christ Jesus, on the merits of Him, in whom was perfect obedience.

As this tarriance in London was to be a very short one, it was not thought necessary to remove the clerks and servants usually residing at St. Mildred's Court, the size of the house admitting their continuance without interfering with the arrangements of the family. The circumstances of so many young men being thus under the same roof with themselves, in Mrs. Fry's estimation involved the duty of including them in the family worship, though she found it not a matter easy to arrange.

Mildred's Court, First Month, 12th, 1813.—At last I have been enabled to accomplish my desire in having the greater part of our family here, present at the Scripture reading in the morning, it has been to me a very humbling thing, and I may say trying; the difficulty, reluctance, and lukewarmness about it, that appeared to exist, so that I was obliged to beg my beloved husband to ask it for me. It was very exercising on the First day morning when we met; but through all, unusual peace has been my portion, in giving up to it. It has been entered into more by faith than by sight, as it appeared so very discouraging, others not uniting in what seems to me so important a duty; but I have a secret hope and belief, that good will come of it, if the Lord will be pleased to bless and strengthen me in it. Oh! saith my soul, may it tend to our sanctification and redemption. Be pleased, O Lord! so to bless it, that it become not a dead form, but may it enliven our hearts towards Thee; and enable Thy poor hand-maid to be a faithful minister of Thy word amongst them, so as to be made instrumental in drawing some nearer to thee. I am thankful, for being so far helped on my way, and for a little peace within, when discouragement was without.

Mildred's Court, Second Month, 5th.—The subject of visiting the Monthly Meetings, has been very present with me. Grant, O Lord! I beseech Thee, strength and ability to do Thy will, and promote Thy cause in the hearts of others; I know I am little and weak, yet Thou canst cause one to chase a thousand, and two to put ten thousand to flight. I feel little doubt but that my way will be made in this matter, and that this concern is not of my own appointment. Let me commit myself as much as I can into better hands, there leaving it, seeking in all things a humble mind and resigned will. I have felt and still feel, if the armour of the Lord be put on, which I humbly trust it will be; that I shall be enabled to fight valiantly. Be with me, O Lord! then I need not fear, what any man or any power can do unto me. See and cleanse me, if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting, make this visit instrumental of still more closely uniting me in Gospel love, and fellowship to all scattered here about, yet preserve the poor creature from ever being exalted, or taking that glory that is not its due.

Mildred's Court, 11th.—I feel fresh cause for thankfulness, in being helped through yesterday at our Monthly Meeting, in mentioning my concern to Friends, to visit the Monthly Meetings, &c., of our Quarterly Meeting; I was unusually exercised in doing it, it appeared such a very pressing matter, as if I must do it, though some of my best and most valued friends advised me against it, thinking that I might safely go without any minute, which I did not feel to be the case, as I apprehended the concern to be more extensive than it at first appeared. I have seldom experienced greater relief in any thing. I could hardly help rejoicing yesterday, with the feelings of thankfulness, that the thing was got through so much to my satisfaction and comfort. Oh, how I loved my friends, I even felt it sweet their participating with me, as I believe they did, though little was said, in what I have felt so awful and important, yet, enough was said to satisfy me, and even in one instance, in stronger terms than I quite approved, more than I dared myself say of the concern. I felt a fear yesterday, and also feel it to-day, of taking any thing like my rest in this sweet feeling that has attended me, and so becoming unwatchful, not devoted and circumspect enough. I believe I may truly say my desire is that this event may be blessed to me, and be instrumental in making me better in all things. The Minute granted me is this—"The Women Friends being now present; Elizabeth Fry laid before us a concern, which she had weightily felt, to pay a religious visit to the Monthly Meetings, within this Quarterly Meeting, the same being solidly considered, this Meeting feels unity with her, in her said concern, and recommends her to the sympathy of her friends.'

When a Friend applies for leave from the Meeting to which he belongs, to travel in the work of the Ministry, it is customary, after the Meeting for worship, on the day of the Monthly Meeting, for the men and women to remain together, instead of separating as they usually do for the Meetings of Discipline, in order to receive the communication of the Friend under concern, and to afford it their joint and serious deliberation. When a Woman Friend is in the case, arrangements are carefully made to provide for her comfort and suitable protection, whilst engaged in these labours.

Mildred's Court, Second day, 15th.—My fear for myself the last few days is, that I should be exalted by the evident unity of my dear friends whom I greatly value, by being, as I feel I am, in degree looked up to, by those less experienced than myself in the gift, (small as my own is); and also my natural health and spirits being good, and being engaged in some laudable pursuits, more particularly seeing after the prisoners in Newgate. Oh, how deeply, how very deeply, I fear the temptation of ever being exalted or self-conceited. I cannot preserve myself from this temptation, any more than being unduly cast down or crushed by others. Be pleased, O Lord! to preserve me, for the deep inward prayer of my heart is, that I may ever walk humbly before Thee; and also before all mankind. Let me never in any way take that glory to myself which alone belongs unto Thee, if in Thy mercy Thou should ever enable one so unworthy either to do good or to communicate.

16*th.*—Yesterday we were some hours at Newgate with the poor female felons, attending to their outward necessities; we had been twice previously. Before we went away, dear Anna Buxton uttered a few words in supplication, and very unexpectedly to myself, I did also. I heard weeping, and I thought they appeared much tendered; a very solemn quiet was observed; it was a striking scene, the poor people on their knees around, in their deplorable condition.

Thus simply and incidently, is recorded Elizabeth's Fry's first entrance upon the scene of her future labours, evidently without any idea of the importance of its ultimate results.

In January of this year, four members of the Society of Friends, all well known to Elizabeth Fry, had visited some persons in Newgate who were about to be executed. Although no mention is made of the circumstance in the journal, it has always been understood that the representations of these gentlemen, particularly those of William Forster one of their number, first induced her personally to inspect the state of the women, with the view of alleviating their sufferings occasioned by the inclemency of the season.

At that time, all the female prisoners in Newgate, were confined in that part, now known as the untried side. The larger portion of the Quadrangle was then used as a state prison. The partition wall was not of a sufficient height to prevent the state-prisoners from overlooking the narrow yard, and the windows of the two wards and two cells, of which the women's division consisted. These four rooms comprised about one hundred and ninety superficial yards, into which, at the time of these visits, nearly three hundred women with their numerous children, were crowded; tried and untried, misdemeanants and felons, without classification, without employment, and with no other superintendence than that given by a man and his son, who had charge of them by night and by day. In the same rooms, in rags and dirt, destitute of sufficient clothing (for which there was no provision) sleeping without bedding on the floor, the boards of which were in part raised to supply a sort of pillow, they lived, cooked, and washed.

With the proceeds of their clamourous begging, when any stranger appeared amongst them, the prisoners purchased liquors from a regular tap in the prison. Spirits were openly drunk, and the ear was assailed by the most terrible language. Beyond that necessary for safe custody, there was little restraint over their communication with the world without.

Although military sentinels were posted on the leads of the prison, such was the lawlessness prevailing, that Mr. Newman the governor, entered this portion of it with reluctance. Fearful that their watches should be snatched from their sides, he advised the ladies, (though without avail,) to leave them in his house.

Into this scene, Mrs. Fry entered, accompanied only by one lady, a sister of Sir T. F. Buxton. The sorrowful and neglected condition of these depraved women and their miserable children, dwelling in such a vortex of corruption, deeply sank into her heart, although at this time, nothing more was done than to supply the most destitute with clothes. A vivid recollection of the green baize garments, and the pleasure of assisting in their preparation for this purpose, is still retained in her family. She carried back to her home, and into the midst of other interests and avocations, a lively remembrance of all that she had witnessed in Newgate; which within four years induced that systematic effort for ameliorating the condition of these poor outcasts, so signally blessed by Him who said, "That joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons which need no repentance."

CHAPTER VIII.

1813–1817. Letter to the Rev. Edward Edwards—Summer at Plashet—Illness during the spring—Her ninth child born, 1814—Letter to her cousin, J. G. Bevan—Illness and death of her brother John Gurney—Letter to her family—Death of Joseph Gurney Bevan—Illness of her babe—Journey into Norfolk—Earlham, party assembled there—Visit to Kingston Monthly Meeting—Death of one of her children—Extract from letters—Attends Dorsetshire Quarterly Meeting—Her tenth child born, 1816—Leaves her four elder children in Norfolk—Letters to her daughters—Removal to London for the winter—Attends the funeral of her cousin Joseph Gurney, Jun.—Places her two elder sons at school.

NOT only did a considerable space of time elapse after Elizabeth Fry's first visits to Newgate before she renewed them, but in the interim many events occurred of deep import to herself. He who "sits as a Refiner and Purifier of silver," saw well to exercise her in the school of affliction, before raising her up for the remarkable work she had to do. Long and distressing indisposition; the death of her brother John Gurney, that of her paternal friend John Gurney Bevan; the loss of a most tenderly beloved child; considerable loss of property; separation for a time from all her elder children, were among the means used by Him, who cannot err to teach her the utter instability of every human possession, to draw her heart more entirely to Himself, and to prepare her for His service. The rare combination in her natural character, of the extremes of courage and timidity were not more remarkable, that in her spiritual course, her holy boldness and confiding love contrasted with her dread of in anything offending her "Holy Helper," as she loved to designate Him to whom her heart was given.

Mildred's Court, Second Month, 19th.—I feel very unworthy this morning, though the day appeared to begin well, in a few words of solemn supplication. After reading, yesterday, I think I was too much off my watch, and did not keep that bridle over my tongue, which is so important; too much disposed to bow the knee of my soul to mortals, rather than to the living God alone. In consequence, I felt this morning at reading, unwilling to take up the cross. In how very many ways is my soul beset, no mortals know, or I believe, even suspect, how much so; at times my hands appear ready to hang or fall down. Alas! may it not be so.

To the Reverend Edward Edwards.

Mildred's Court, *Third Month, 2nd,* 1813.

My dear Friend,

I have been questioning whether to write to my dear sister Richenda or thyself, for my heart is full towards you; but as I had thought of writing to thee before, I think thou hast the first claim. Words fall short of expression when the heart is very full; this is my case at present. I feel you all very near and dear to me, and there are times when I cannot help longing to have all differences and distinctions done away, that we may have one heart and be of one mind; this was brought home to me by the desire I have for your sympathy and prayers in my steppings along, that you may be able, as it were, to go with me heart and hand; I feel this because you are so near to me (I trust) in the covenant of love and life, but amidst these cogitations a sweet thought has arisen, that although in time we may not experience all walls of separation to be broken down, yet, we may look forward to a blessed eternity, where with one accord and one heart, we may join the heavenly host in ascribing glory and honour, wisdom and power unto our God, and the Lamb for ever.

Even here the sweet love and unity of which we at times are permitted to partake, appears like a foretaste of that which is to be enjoyed. If any of you should feel disposed to write me a few lines, I hope you will do so; and if any hint or caution arises, I beg that you will freely give it; for it is well to watch over one another for good. The sense of my own weakness, infirmity and utter insufficiency to promote the glorious cause, also a natural flinching from such an exposure, and so far taking up the cross, at times make my heart feel sick and my spirit ready to faint within me; then again arises for my help and consolation, a faith in Him who gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might increases strength; indeed my confidence is not in myself but in the power of a Saviour and Redeemer. My desire is, through the ability given, or grace afforded, that I may attend to the blessed injunction of "Continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love, even as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love." May it be under the constraining influence of this love, that I ever dare to advocate the cause that I love, and be preserved from my own willings and runnings. I find my dear friend thou hast lately been afflicted, and tried; unto such how many precious promises are offered, yet there are times when the heart feels unable to receive them, and we can hardly believe ourselves of the number to whom they apply. Is this ever thy case? perhaps we can sympathize in the feeling of at times walking in darkness, and having no light; may we then "trust in the Lord, and stay ourselves upon our God." My dear love to thy wife, dear Richenda, and my brother, D—— G——, and remember me affectionately to our friends, the Hankinsons. Believe me thy affectionately interested friend,

ELIZABETH FRY.

Mildred's Court, Third Month, 22nd.—Began the day poorly, by not doing what came to hand at our family reading; and now I am going to set out to visit the sick and sorrowful belonging to Westminster Meeting. O Lord! have mercy on me, and pardon my transgressions, and enable Thy poor unworthy one to speak a word in season to the afflicted and tried. Thou only knowest my heart and its many fears; preserve me from evil, and keep the gift pure I beseech Thee, and unalloyed by the dross of my nature, as I fear for it, lest being so very often called forth, I should ever stir in my own strength; help Thy poor dependent child, O Lord! I pray Thee have mercy on me, be with me in the way that I should go, preserve me from undue fear of man, yet keep me open to the caution, reproof, or advice of those further advanced; keep me humble, lowly and obedient, walking in Thy fear, and in Thy love. Amen. Enable me to walk before thee this day, with a watchful, circumspect and faithful heart. Thou hast blessed, be yet pleased to bless!

Fourth Month, 2nd, Mildred's Court.—Richard Phillips called here to day, and I really think I stand too much in awe of his and John Hull's opinions, as regards my religious movements, for I believe they may err; it is far better to look to that Power that cannot err, and whom I know to teach as no man can teach. I think I am far too much a slave to the opinions of the good; I mind it far more than the laugh of the world. May I be preserved from spiritual pride; and yet, I trust, I may live in unity with the good, as long as I live. I feel my own infirmity very much, and see how needful it is for the vessel to be kept clean that contains a gift to hand to others, even if it be through humiliation and crosses. I have been to-day too much engaged trying to serve others; in these duties there is danger of pride creeping in; I have found it in myself, being so consulted and pressed upon. May I watch, and trust in my Redeemer, who is yet able and willing to cleanse and to save.

Plashet, 8th.—Yesterday I gave up my minute. I was helped to acknowledge how it had been with me, that way had been made for me inwardly and outwardly, to accomplish that which I had in view; and although I before had deep humiliation to pass through, and had to bear the cross greatly in some things, also to feel much abased, under a sense of my own infirmity and unworthiness, yet that I had experienced a power better than myself helping me; even that which I believed to be the power of an endless life strengthening me to do things which I could not of myself have done; I had learned afresh that to the creature nothing belongeth but confusion of face but to the Holy Helper, who alone is worthy; glory, honour, power, thanksgiving, and praise. Sweet quietness and peace, was felt after this acknowledgment to the women and men. I also expressed my desire, that whenever weakness or infirmity had shewn itself, it might be laid to the creature, but whenever good, however small, had appeared, that it might by myself and others be attributed to the Creator.

Plashet, 28th.—Dear Edward Edwards and his wife are staying here, which has been pleasant to me.

Fifth Month, 1st.—So one month passes away, and another comes. A sweetness and power enlivens my heart this morning. I pray Thee, O Lord! Thou who hast hitherto helped me, be with me this day, preserve me humble and lowly in spirit, enable me to do Thy will; if Thou grantest ability to Thy poor handmaid to speak in Thy name, enable her and all to give wholly unto Thee the glory and honour of Thy own work. We had a very striking time yesterday evening, before our dear friends Edward and Anne Edwards left us, when sitting with them, my sister Priscilla and some others. Dear Edward Edwards knelt down, and to my feelings expressed himself in a very lively manner; others were led to speak both in testimony and supplication; afterwards, I had to pour forth a little of my soul; there appeared to flow a current of life and love, as if we were owned by the Most High; I felt my own like a song of praise, and have in my misgiving nature feared that those present might think it done in the impetuosity of the creature, which I believe was not the case, being naturally very flat and low. What I experienced I can hardly express, a little like him who thought he could go on till midnight, expressing the goodness of the Lord to him. I certainly was much raised spiritually, and so I believe were all the party, and that we were united together in Christ. I do not think I ever believed so much as I have done since last Third day Meeting, and last evening, that the hand of the Almighty is in the changes that have taken place in our family; one going one way, one another; for it has in so remarkable a degree opened a door of spiritual unity with those who differ in some points from each other. It has a tendency to spread that blessed principle, which we uphold as a Society, of the anointing Power, leading us into all truth—the Spirit of Christ in man, as his only hope of glory. May we each faithfully keep our places, and do the work committed to us, whatsoever it may be. I also trust, we Friends may receive benefit by this intercourse increasingly opening our hearts in love to all, and enlarging us in the gift of charity; and that it may tend not only to our believing, but more openly declaring our faith in Christ, as our Saviour, our Redeemer, and our only Hope of Glory.

Sixth Month.—I am likely to attend dear Mary Dudley, to the families of this Monthly Meeting, which appears a suitable opening for me, and one which seems lively and desirable to my spiritual sight, though the cross is not so great in it, as a concern of my own; but I believe that I may thankfully receive the blessing that things are at times made so sweetly easy to me, and that I need not seek for painful baptisms for what cannot the Lord do? can He not make hard things easy, for do I not know as to the outward, how He once permitted me to have a child born comparatively without suffering, may it not be so spiritually?

Plashet, 24th.—Enabled publicly, after reading, to cast my case upon my Holy Helper, and I have since found much comfort and relief to my before tried mind, so as to know a degree of that precious feeling of my peace flowing as a river, and being in measure enabled to do that which I have to do, as unto the Lord. How much more ought such an internal evidence to strengthen and comfort me, than any little discouragement of man really to hurt!

Plashet, Tenth Month, 14th.—Clouds a little dispersed—my health and natural spirits good—no particular cause of trial that I know of, but a want of a more devoted heart, this want I deeply feel; but I fear I do not constantly and fervently enough seek Him, who can bring all things into subjection unto Himself. I flinch from the cross, and also fear I am not diligent, and do not strive enough to enter the kingdom. I do not mean in creaturely impetuosity, but in humble fervour, and watchfulness, and lowliness of heart. I woke under this feeling, as I very often do, like one athirst, and it came across me like a gleam, that what I could not do, the Redeemer would do for me, even grant the willing mind to submit in all things; this gave me hope. Words of doctrine I do not pretend to understand, or to enter into; one thing I do know, that Christ in me, or that ever blessed power that I have felt, do feel, and I trust ever may feel even unto the end of time, when time to me here will be no more, is my *only hope* of glory—my *only hope* of salvation. It is in knowing what this ever blessed, saving, healing, and strengthening power can do and has done, that I have a hope of being saved in eternity, as well as in time, and having an entrance granted me into that kingdom, where the "wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest." Though a great and wonderful mystery, yet I do here heartily and fully acknowledge, that as far as I know a coming unto God, it is through and by Christ; and I doubt not there are numbers who never knew, and never consequently acknowledge by whom they come unto God, and by what means they are saved; (though this may be made more manifest to some of us, even the "power and mercy" of God in Christ Jesus reconciling the world unto himself:) who may experience a being reconciled, without knowing by whom they are reconciled; though their lives, and their deeds prove an abiding in the saving and anointing power of their Redeemer and the Saviour.

Plashet, 15th.—My original intention in writing this journal, has been simply and purely the good of my own soul, but if after my death, those who survive should believe that any part of it would conduce to strengthen others in the faith, and to encourage them in righteousness, by manifesting the loving-kindness of the Almighty to His unworthy child, or to the comfort of any mourner in Zion, I am willing that it should be exposed, even if my weaknesses are acknowledged; so long as they lead to the love of Him, who has in tender mercy manifested Himself to be strength in my weakness, and a present Helper in every needful time.

Eleventh Month, 12th.—I am likely to set off early to-morrow without my husband, to go into Norfolk; this prospect I feel pleasant and painful; pleasant, the idea of being at Earlham, painful, leaving home, and more particularly my husband. May I be enabled there faithfully to do my duty, in whatever way I may be led, in Meeting, or out of Meeting; may the time spent there be to our mutual comfort and edification, and may those left be cared for, and preserved soul and body, by Him who careth for us; this I humbly trust will be the case. Amen.

Plashet, 25th.—I returned safely home to my beloved family, on Second day evening, the 22nd, I trust I may say in thankfulness of heart, finding all well, and going on altogether very comfortably. I returned by Ipswich, accompanied by my sister Priscilla and my brother Joseph, and spent all First day there; but I was unusually low, almost distressed, on account of little Betsy, as I heard she was unwell, and knew not the extent of it; so that my natural impatience to get home was great; but I felt kept there, and as if I could not go away, and though thus deeply tried in myself, was greatly helped from one service to another during the day, being variously and often engaged. It was a day of natural tribulation as far as fears went; and may I not say almost of spiritual abounding? So it is! and so I often have found it, that I have to be brought as to the dust of the earth, before I am greatly helped. Out of the depths, we are raised to the heights. Dear Priscilla, before we parted, prayed for my safe and peaceful return home, which prayer has been remarkably granted. Third day, my beloved husband with our children attended the Monthly Meeting, where our certificate was received.

This was from Gracechurch Street Meeting to that of Plaistow, in accordance with the discipline of Friends to recommend Joseph and Elizabeth Fry and their children, as members of that Meeting; their removal to Plashet having brought them within its compass.

I should say that the day was begun by returning thanks in my own family, amongst my children, husband, and servants, to my peace; the rest of the day passed in much domestic comfort, with my husband at home. This was one of the very bright days of life; blessings are abundantly granted, and sometimes even a blessing upon the blessings, that makes us all feel sweet and lovely!

Plashet, Twelfth Month, 13th.—I do think at times that it is by far my first desire to be brought into conformity to the Divine will, but at other times I am ready to fear that I deceive myself;

but I am thankful in believing that the secret intents and purposes of my heart are known, though at the same time I am sensible that there is much infirmity, and evil propensity which must be known; yet even of that I am glad, for it is well the physician should know the extent of the malady, as he alone can rightly apply the remedy. Thou knowest me, O Lord! much better than I know myself; Thou knowest the intents and purposes of my heart; bring that under which in any way opposes itself to Thy will being done in me, by me, and through me; be with me unto the end, O Lord! I pray Thee, and in Thine own time subdue all that rebels against Thee; do for me that which I cannot do for myself; even carry on Thine own work in me to Thy own praise; make me willing at all times to speak in Thy name, when it is according to Thy will, yet more and more manifest Thine own power in Thy poor unworthy child, that if not inconsistent with Thy holy will, her beloved husband, children and servants, may be drawn nearer unto Thee, and be encouraged to abide in a meek and quiet spirit; that others seeing their good works, may also glorify Thy great and glorious name. Amen.

First Month, 24th, 1814.—I feel affected by the distresses of the poor, owing to the very sharp weather; and hardly know how to serve them, but I mean to go after them, and desire a blessing may attend my small efforts to relieve them, for it appears very little we can do for them, so as thoroughly to assist them; but I trust a better than ourselves is near to help and support them under their many trials.

Plashet, Second Month, 4th.—I am low, under a sense of my own infirmities, and also rather grieved by the poor. I endeavoured to serve them, and have given them such broth and dumplings as we should eat ourselves; I find great fault has been found with them, and one woman seen to throw them to the pigs; however, I truly desire to act in this with a Christian spirit, still persevering to do my utmost for them, and patiently bear their reproach, which may be better for me than their praises.

Plashet, 11th.—Tried by my servants appearing dissatisfied by what I believe to be liberal things; I feel these things when

I consider how false a view we may take of each other, and how different my feelings towards them are from being ungenerous, which I fear they think. I know no family who allows exactly the same indulgences, and few who give the same high wages, and yet I do not know of any one so often grieved by the discontents of servants as myself. I believe I had rather go without indulgences myself, (if I thought it right) than curtail theirs; but the lavish way in which most of their description appear to think things ought to be used, is a trial to me, and contrary to my best judgment; but a constant lesson to myself, is the ingratitude and discontent which I think I see and feel in many, because I doubt not it is the same with myself. How bountifully am I dealt with, day by day, and yet if there be one little subject of sorrow or apparent discontent, do I not in my heart dwell upon that, and not by any means sufficiently upon the innumerable mercies and blessings that surround me. Feeling that I am so infirm, can I wonder at the infirmities of others? Far from it, and though tried at times by my domestics, yet my belief is, that my small labour of love has not been lost upon all, and that I have amongst them, faithful, valuable, and conscientious servants, who, through all love us, and are in reality our friends, though they may at times mistake and misconstrue our conduct towards them, and show us their weakness, as well as we may show ours.

Third Month, 20th.—The craving of my soul for preservation is almost past expression: feeling as I am permitted to do, at times, the goodness of the Lord, how fervent is my desire, how inexpressible my prayer, that I may ever be His in and through all things; that I may dwell nearer in spirit to my Redeemer, that increased humility, watchfulness, patience and forbearance, may be my portion; that I may not only be saved myself, but that I may not stand in the way of others' salvation, more particularly in that of my own household and family; and that I may, if consistent with the Divine will, be made instrumental in saving others. Now in the time of my retirement from the world, from being unwell, my soul craves in deep prostration, preservation from Thee, O God! There are seasons of deep prostration, when my soul is overwhelmed within me, under the feeling of Thy goodness, Thy power, and in love towards Thyself, Thy ever blessed cause, and those that fear Thy name. This morning my heart recommends numbers, who are assembled for the solemn purpose of worshipping Thee, to Thy grace and good keeping; animate them by Thy love, keep them in Thy fear; yet be with and keep Thy poor unworthy handmaid, be it unto her according to Thy will, or Thy word: yet in Thy abundant mercy permit her soul to magnify Thee, O Lord! and her spirit to rejoice in God her Saviour, which she has been permitted to do of late, even in seasons of deep humiliation, or when coming out of the depths.

25th.—May I spiritually and temporally this day be enabled to give myself up to my Master, not looking upon myself as my own, or feeling anxious as to what I suffer, or may suffer, but rather resigning myself unto Him who knows what is best for me; but this is not in my own power. Keep me, O Lord! near unto Thyself, and Thy own preserving power, and let me not wander from Thee, either in word, deed, or desire, or be over anxious as to what may await me, but strengthen me, if consistent with Thy will, to trust in Thy mercy towards one so poor, so weak, and so frail.

Fourth Month, 16th.—I may acknowledge the help and comfort I have found in my beloved sister Rachel, through this time of trial she has been a great support; I have also received much kindness from my dear sisters, Elizabeth Gurney and Elizabeth Fry. My dearest sister Rachel one evening knelt down, and prayed that we might be enabled to trust in the Lord, as He only knew what was best for us; it came with great weight and solemnity. Sweet as the encouragement given has been, yet there have been seasons when I have been too low to take it, or to feel it; but in abundant mercy a little help, has been administered to my very unworthy soul from the Fountain Head, and my fears have been greatly quieted.

Plashet, 30th.—None know but those who suffer from them, the deep humiliations such disorders create, as those I have lately had; I mean great bodily weakness, accompanied by nervous lowness of spirits, and much mental fear. In the first place, how deeply do they try us, being in their own nature so painful; in the next, from the difficulty of doing strictly right in them, how far to endeavour to divert by cheerful amusement, or by taking such things as may soonest relieve them: and added to these, I think many are apt falsely to accuse themselves, and to mistake the painful restlessness and fear occasioned by them, for impatience and mistrust; I have sometimes a hope that this is not my case, though at others great fear arises, lest I should in any degree let go my hold, or be impatient after having so abundantly known the goodness, and loving-kindness of the Almighty. Oh, saith my soul, may He once more revive the spirit of His poor unworthy one, and breathe upon these dead bones, that they may live.

In great weakness and infirmity. Gracious and Almighty Father, permit Thy poor child to come unto Thee, her God and Saviour, that if consistent with Thy holy will, she may once more be healed and revived, through Thy Almighty saving power; give her not over to the will of her soul's enemies, and permit not temptation or weakness to overcome her, but in Thine own unspeakable and unmerited mercy, be Thou yet unto her, her Lord and her God, her Saviour and Redeemer, her present help in trouble, and her only hope of glory. Amen.

Plashet, Fifth Month, 16th.—Humbled under a sense of being not in a sweet temper, of which I truly repent; but I ever feel it a favour to be clear when I am doing wrong, and to feel repentant for it, for my greatest fear is of imperceptibly falling away, and becoming insensible to the errors of my ways.

Plashet, 24th.—My soul followeth hard after Thee, O Lord! enable Thy poor child to follow after Thee, preserve her from letting in want of faith, mistrust or fear, but enable her to cleave very close unto Thee, and through all her trials, that nothing may in any degree separate her from Thy love.

Plashet, Sixth Month, 13th.—Though clouds may be permitted to overshadow me, before the real trial comes, yet I cannot but have a hope that help will marvellously be extended in the needful time. Help, dearest Lord, or I perish; permit me neither to let go my hold in times of trial, nor deny Thee in thought, word or deed, but to acknowledge Thy goodness to Thy very greatly favoured but unworthy child. These words arise ; be still, and thou shalt see the salvation of God. Be it so, saith my soul.

The birth of her ninth child, took place on the 14th of June.

Plashet, 17th.—I think I may say, I have sought to be still, and have indeed seen the salvation of God. I passed the remainder of the day, till about eight o'clock, in much quietness and tranquillity generally speaking. In the evening, I felt ill, with great disposition to faint, so that for a very short time my sight was nearly gone, but my mind was quiet. I did not feel easy to settle for the night, without asking them all to sit quietly by me, that I might have an opportunity of pouring out my soul in prayer to my great and ever blessed Helper. This I was enabled to do ; the thing which I think I most prayed for, was strength, and that I might not be overwhelmed in body, soul, or spirit—a calmer state was afterwards my portion. I feel now a poor insensible creature ; may I in due time be sensible of what the Lord has done for me, so as to stimulate me abundantly to love and good works, if consistent with His ever blessed will ; but without the assistance of His power, I can no more by doing than in suffering show forth His praises, therefore I pray Thee, O Lord! yet be with and help Thy poor child, in this the moment of her prosperity, as well as in her adversity ; enable her so to hold fast on Thee, whom she desires far above all to love and to serve, and to prefer above her chiefest joy, neither to deny Thee in thought, word, or deed. Enable me, O Lord, I pray Thee, in everything that I do to prove myself more completely devoted to Thee, in all my relative, as well as in all my other duties, that I may be thine, and that Thou mayst be glorified, not only by me, but by those whom Thou hast given me, that these dear lambs may in due time show forth Thy praise, as well as all those to whom, in Thy unspeakable mercy Thou hast made Thy poor child in any degree an instrument of help.

Plashet, 20th.—As I lay this morning, these words occurred to me, Lackest thou anything? The answer of my heart was, Nothing Lord, Thy mercies abundantly overflow, only enable me and mine to keep a still closer covenant with Thee, and to remember Thy commandments to do them; and may my soul ever make her boast in Thee her God and Saviour, and never, no never, take that to itself that in no degree belongs to it. Under a fear of too freely approaching Thy sacred footstool in word, as Thou Lord knowest my heart, and its secret purposes, do that for me that I cannot do for myself; and may I day by day, yet experience Thy grace to be sufficient for me, whether in mourning or in rejoicing.

21st.—My soul cannot help feeling greatly bound in gratitude for the many and great benefits received; thanksgiving is the voice of my heart, though something of anxiety and disquietude has been my portion, more particularly on account of my beloved husband, and children. I also desire to settle my household aright, to walk before them with an upright, humble, and perfect heart, fulfilling the Law and the Gospel. I desire to be scrupulously nice as to my conduct towards servants; if they revile, revile not again, not even in heart; I am not tempted in word to revile them, but I may speak too freely of them, for they at times grieve me by their apparent ingratitude, and want of consideration; but may I bear as I desire to be borne with. In some instances, I am amply rewarded by their gratitude and love; in others much wounded by them. I thought if not saying too much for myself, that I have wept as between the porch and the altar on their account, and on that of my beloved family altogether; I feel it cause for much thanksgiving, so far to be restored to them again, but my natural spirits at times are overcome. Grant wisdom and grace, O Lord! I pray Thee, to Thy poor child, to order her steps aright before them all, being wise as the serpent and harmless as the dove.

Elizabeth Fry had held on her way, though "faint yet pursuing," through this long and peculiarly distressing state of illness and suffering. Now she was enabled to rejoice in the blessing given, and the possession of another infant, always so welcome to her motherly and loving nature; but in the mingled cup of life, it was to be expected that bitter would follow the sweet, if it did not accompany it, she received tidings of the critical illness of her beloved friend and relative, Joseph Gurney Bevan. In the fulness of her heart she addressed him.

Plashet, *Sixth Month*, 20*th.*

My tenderly beloved Cousin,

I hear thou art very ill, which I feel a good deal. I should have been pleased had it been ordered so that I could have assisted in waiting on thee; but though absent in body, I believe I shall be very often visiting thee in spirit, indeed, before I heard of thy being so poorly, this has been frequently the case with me. I have once more had to rejoice, in tender mercy and abundant loving-kindness having been again graciously manifested to me, helping me, strengthening me, and carrying me through my time of trial, and then granting me the sweet blessing of a dear little lamb added to our flock. As for thyself, what can I say? for thy own sake, we hardly dare ask that thou mayst very long be continued amongst us, amidst the attendant trials of time, fully believing, that through the mercy of God in Christ Jesus, sooner or later, an entrance will be ministered unto thee abundantly, into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I know a little of thy low opinion of thyself, that perhaps thou canst hardly take precious promises home, but remember, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, nor hath it entered into the heart of man to conceive the things that the Lord hath prepared for them that love Him." And most surely thou *hast loved* Him, and not only so, but sought *to prove thy love*, and hast thou not done it by feeding the lambs? If enabled, let us remember one another for good. I feel selfishly anxious that this may not prove a very serious attack; but I desire to leave it in better hands. I am inclined, before I leave off, just to express what a feeling of love and gratitude I have towards thee, for thy kindnesses to me have been many and great. Believe me thy nearly attached cousin, and I trust I may, in another sense, say *child.*

ELIZABETH FRY.

As soon as her health was sufficiently restored to admit of it, Mrs. Fry took a journey to Earlham, to see her brother John Gurney, who was then rapidly declining. He had never recovered the shock of his wife's death six years before, and the bodily fatigue which he had undergone in his attendance upon her. As the things of this world failed him, he laid hold of more enduring realities; he who had been eminent for beauty of person and fascination of manner became as remarkable for the graces of the Christian life; and the spirit of deep submission with which he endured his infirmities, was alone surpassed by his childlike faith in his Redeemer, and the joy and peace he knew in believing.

Plashet, Eighth Month, 15th.—Once more arrived at my sweet home, and truly thankful in having finished my visit to my much-beloved brothers and sisters with satisfaction. I feel most tenderly for all, and I humbly trust, all are pressing Zion-ward, though I cannot say that I fully understand or enter into the activity of the creature appearing to show itself so much in things belonging to the soul's salvation; but this I know, inasmuch as it is of God, it will stand, but inasmuch as it is of man, it will fall. It is not for a poor unworthy fellow-mortal like myself to say what is of God, and what is not, though I may apprehend that there is a mixture, not only in them, but in myself, and in us as a body, though our belief and profession is, that nothing short of the Holy Spirit can really help forward the cause of righteousness on the earth, whether it be immediately or instrumentally; and that we can only do good when influenced by this Spirit, and therefore desire to wait for its stirrings. I parted from my beloved sister Rachel, who has for months past been to me a tenderly beloved friend, a most watchful and valuable nurse, and a most loving sister; I felt parting from her a good deal.

Plashet, 29th.—My heart has been much affected by the accounts of my beloved brother, who appears sinking into the grave, step by step; but his soul most mercifully cared for, and also his body greatly shielded from suffering.

Earlham, Ninth Month, 9th.—I trust I have been enabled to do what I ought in this matter; after writing the above, a letter arrived that quite confirmed me in the propriety of making ready to set off early on the Third day morning, but I could not feel easy to do it till that time. I felt bound in spirit to offer up my family to the care of a protecting Providence publicly, after our reading in the morning, before I set off, which I was enabled to do; and also to pray for my beloved brother, that in passing through the valley of the shadow of death, he might fear no evil (this prayer appeared fully answered). I left home after this with a peculiarly happy, may I not say cheerful mind? I mean free from burden. I have seldom had a more comfortable journey in small things as well as great, I saw the kind hand of Providence. May it afresh teach me to trust, and not be impatient when things outwardly appear to go cross, there may be good in it. I could not but admire, when travelling the last stage, how little fatigue I felt, so that I thought I could go on much further, (truly the back is fitted to the burden,) I had just stopped long enough to have a good supper, when an express arrived, to say that my beloved brother's decline was so rapid, as to make my seeing him doubtful, I felt no doubt about going forward, and arrived here about four in the morning.

The scene closed the following day; she describes it in a letter to her family at home.

Earlham, *Ninth Month,* 8*th,* 1814,
(by the remains of my beloved brother.)

My much loved Husband and Children,

Believing you will feel with me in what so nearly concerns me and not only me, but you also, I sit down to tell you as nearly as

I can what has happened since I came here. I believe you know I arrived about four o'clock yesterday morning. I was then led into the room where my tenderly beloved brother lay in bed ; he was awake, but some feared he would not know me, instead of which, upon seeing me, his words were, "My dear sister, come and kiss me," then he expressed his great pleasure at our being together—he looked very sweet, quite easy, may I not say, like one redeemed. After staying some time by him, I went to bed; but I did not rest much, feeling low, burdened, and rather poorly. My dear sister Priscilla, came to me a little past nine o'clock, and advised me to come, he was so very bright, his powers of mind appearing much clearer than any dying man I ever witnessed, except our poor servant John. Upon going into his room, he kissed us each again, and again said he wished for all his sisters together, appearing clearly to recollect each, for upon one saying, "Now there is no exception, all the sisters are with thee," he at first misunderstood, and said, "Did you say there is one exception, for there is not," or to that effect; he said it was delightful how we loved one another. It appeared my place to return thanks for such unspeakable blessings. He then said, "What a sweet prayer!" and afterwards, "I never passed so happy a morning ; how delightful being together and loving one another as we do." As the day further advanced, he said, "What a beautiful day this has been!" My dear uncle and aunt Joseph came a little before dinner: Charles Brereton, William Wilkinson and his wife, Hannah Scarnel, nurse Norman, and his own man, were our companions. Dr. Alderson called in the morning, and D. Dalrymple, each much affected, he expressed himself so kindly to them ; he desired his love to Amelia Opie; he enjoyed our dear sister Richenda, singing hymns to him ; he took leave of most of the old servants ; to one whom he used not much to like, he spoke the most kindly, said he was glad to see him, and shook him warmly by the hand, and bade him "farewell ;" he appeared deeply impressed with his many blessings and the mercy shown him. About half an hour after it was over, we had once more to approach the sacred footstool (for ability) to bless the Sacred Name, both for His giving and taking away. Thus closed such a day as I never passed; may we not say, "blessed are the dead that die in the Lord?" Oh, my beloved children and husband, may we not only feel, but profit by this striking event. . . . . .

Earlham, Ninth Month, 13th.—My heart feels very full; my body I believe has trembled ever since I rose, to meet the party, now assembled, and likely to assemble here. My own corrupt dispositions, I found showed themselves to myself yesterday, which I believe tended to lay me very low; may I not say the feeling of my heart is, that I am lying prostrate in the dust? I have been greatly tendered in spirit with love to those here, whom I believe to love the *Lord;* united to them in a manner inexpressible in my inmost heart—all barriers being broken down. Yet I feel it needful to be very watchful, very careful; to be faithful to the testimony, that I apprehend myself called upon to bear, not only for my own sake, but also for the sake of the younger ones about me; Lord, be pleased to help me, to guide me, to counsel me, that from my own will and prejudice, I wound not a beloved brother or sister in Christ, but so keep me in Thy fear, in Thy love, and under a sense of Thy presence; that I act in these most awful and important duties, according to Thy most Holy and blessed will. During these few days, when so surrounded by many of various descriptions, keep my eye, I fervently pray Thee, single unto Thyself, doing whatever Thou wouldest have me, either to do or to suffer—not bowing the knee of my heart to any mortal or seeking to gratify or even satisfy self—but, O Lord! let Thy will be done in me, by me, and through me; permit our souls to be united in sweet and precious unity with all who fear Thy name, and not only those; even animate the hearts of others, who may not yet know Thee, that they also may be touched by Thy love, and united together in Thy fear. Let Thy good presence be with us, that the feeble be strengthened, the discouraged animated by hope, the lukewarm stimulated, and the backslider turned from the error of his ways, even so, if consistent with Thy holy will. If Thou seest meet to make use of Thy unworthy children to speak in Thy name, be unto them tongue and utterance, wisdom and power, that through Thy grace and the help of Thy Spirit, sinners may be converted unto Thee. Amen, Amen.

Plashet, 22nd.—My beloved brother's funeral, was a very solemn and humbling day to me, whilst we sat at Earlham round the body, my uncle Joseph, my sisters Catherine Rachel and Priscilla, and I, each had something to say; also Edward Edwards. I had to finish the sitting with these words, "There are different gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But let us earnestly covet the best gifts." It certainly was a striking occasion. Were not all in a measure leavened into one spirit? It was a very solemn time at the ground, and I trust an instructive one, very affecting to our natural feelings, thus to leave the body of one so tenderly beloved, to moulder with the dust. Upon my return, I heard of the sudden death of my long loved cousin, J. G. Bevan. My spirit was much overwhelmed within me, but there was a stay underneath; blessed be the name of the Lord. I bid them all farewell, at Earlham, in near unity. Oh, may my children love, as we love—this has been the prayer of my heart!

30*th.*—Another month nearly gone, how much has passed in it; how awfully has death been brought to my view. I have felt it a good deal, on my own account; and cannot say, that at present death appears to have no sting for me, or the grave no victory. May that blessed state ever be mine, of knowing the sting of death to be altogether removed.

Letter to her cousin, Priscilla Hannah Gurney.

Plashet, *Tenth Month,* 19*th,* 1814.

My beloved Cousin,

I regret not answering thy letter before, but almost constant engagements have prevented me. I believe few can more feelingly sympathize than myself, in thy great loss in this our tenderly beloved cousin Joseph Gurney Bevan; he was indeed to me a sure and tried friend and counsellor, how have I admired to see him a friend and a sure friend in the needful time, I used to observe none were able to move him. When under much discouragement, he helped to lift up my head in hope.

He was indeed a true friend, a wise counsellor, and is an inexpressible loss to me, I feel a real and great deprivation, and a vacancy that I know not who can fill. Dear John Hull's state is also very affecting, but he yet remains not only alive, but lively in spirit, I have once been to see him, and may be thankful that he is yet spared to us, but it is a blessing I do not expect long to enjoy ; dear Rachel Smith's loss is also present with me. Now for my tenderly beloved brother ; words fall very short of expression. I do not know that I can feel grateful enough on his account ; we may truly say that his end appeared blessed indeed, love, joy, and peace were the covering of his spirit, "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord." No evil nor sorrow appeared to be permitted to come near him, no pain, mind, or body, that we could perceive, what a favour! He was buried in the Friends' Burying Ground at Norwich, by his wife.

Plashet, Eleventh Month, 2nd.—My beloved husband and girls returned from France, on Second day ; my heart was rather overwhelmed in receiving them again. I also had to feel the spirit in which some persons took my having allowed them to go, making what appeared to be unkind remarks. Oh, how do I see rocks on every hand ; thus almost all persons who appear to pride themselves upon their consistency, are apt to judge others ; whilst some, who no doubt yield to temptations greatly suffer, and weaken themselves by it. How weak, how frail are we on every hand ; my heart was much overwhelmed, seeing the infirmities of others, and feeling my own.

Mrs. Fry was always very jealous over herself, lest her avocations as the head of a family, should be neglected, from her time and attention being so greatly occupied by those duties, which she believed herself called to perform in the Church ; but she was even more alive to the danger of carrying on the business of life, in dependence upon her own strength and power ; her heart's prayer was,

> "Whate'er I do in any thing,
> To do it as to Thee."

In a letter to one of her sisters in Norfolk, on the subject of hiring a cook, she says—

—— My late letters savour much of the Martha, but whilst here, cooks appear a very important, if not a necessary part of our comfort, as our food must be dressed. I am, and have been for many weeks past, in my best health; what a comfort is this, may I not be unmindful of it; but how prone we are to cleave to the things of the earth, rather than in heart to cleave to a better spirit! I sometimes feel like an earth-worm, though at times raised above it, which is an unmerited mercy; but I find we may be employed in arranging laundries, kitchens, and such things, until our heart is too much in them. Does not all call for watchfulness, that even in the performance of our duties, however small, they become not a temptation, and we go not astray; lest the seed become choked, and no fruit brought to perfection?

It would not be true to say, that Mrs. Fry naturally cared much for outward appearance, or that she took pleasure in domestic concerns. She loved a simple liberality, and unostentatious comfort; her element was hospitality, and whilst Christian moderation was observed, her taste was gratified, by an open, generous mode of living; but she would not have chosen for her own pleasure, the oversight of either house or table, and when in later life, circumstances rendered care and economy a duty, it was a great relief to her, to be able to depute the charge of household affairs to one of her daughters. She was always most correct in account-keeping; the distinct heads of House, Garden, Farm, Charity, with many others, marked the pains-taking care with which she performed her self imposed task. As the mistress of a family, if she erred, it was upon the side of indulgence;

scarcely liking to exert that power over the wills and feelings of others, which is so conducive to their good, and so infinitely in favour of those governed, as well as those in the more arduous position of governing others; but she was aware of this herself, and a "firm hand with a household," was among the maxims she impressed upon her daughters as they advanced in life.

During the infancy of her children, she was singularly devoted to them, by night as well as day. She attended to their minutest ailments, and was distressed by their sufferings; in health and happiness they refreshed her by their smiles. She had the gentlest touch with little children, literally and figuratively. She would win their hearts if they had never seen her before, almost at the first glance; and by the first sound of her musical voice. As her children grew older, her love was undiminished, but her facility was less than before the sinfulness of the human heart had developed itself in positive evil; this especially applies to the elder ones. She had not a talent for education, if that word be used for imparting knowledge, probably, because her own had been interrupted and unfinished; nor did she appreciate, till the experience of life had taught her, the necessity of exerting minute, continued and personal influence over the minds of children. She had to learn that if the golden harvest of success is to be reaped, the husbandman must exert both industry and skill. The genial sun to ripen, and the refreshing shower to moisten the ground, are indeed needful; but the soil must be turned up, and the seed sown by the labour of man.

Mildred's Court, First Month, 16*th*, 1815.—We came here for a little change of air, on account of our poor babe, who has been, and continues seriously ill. Instead of her sweet smile, her countenance mostly marks distress; the cause appears greatly hidden; my mind and heart are oppressed, and my body fatigued, partly from losing so much sleep. I have felt my infirmity during this affliction, and also having betrayed it to others, which I have I apprehend, to judge by my touchy feelings; but, I trust, I repent. Oh, what am I? very poor, very unworthy, very weak, but through all I trust that the Lord will be my stay; and even when brought thus low, I have known a little of being at seasons clothed with that righteousness which cometh from God; I found it was well so feelingly to have been brought to a knowledge of what I am *in myself*, as I could more fully testify from whence the good comes, when brought, in measure, under its calming, enlivening and loving influence. Preserve me, O Lord! from hurting the little ones, more particularly those before whom I have to walk; and permit me yet to encourage their progress Zion-ward.

25*th*.—A time of anxiety about things temporal has lately been my portion, but much deliverance has so far been granted; my sweet baby is much better, though other matters are still pressing, yet it appears, as to things temporal, that prayer has been heard and answered. From one cause or another, how much my heart, mind, and time have for more than a year past, been engaged with the cares of this life; alas! may the pure seed not be choked; but I fear it creates at times an irritability of temper, that has tried others as well as myself, and a disposition to something of a murmuring spirit, which I truly desire to be preserved from, I so highly disapprove it. I think I shall see some of my heavy burdens removed in due season; how do I desire that I may be enabled rightly to bear them, and that the pure and ever blessed cause may not suffer, in me, by me, or through me. I find it more difficult to act well in adversity, than in prosperity, the temptations of my mind being rather of a low cast; affliction appears both to irritate and enervate me, yet I trust it also casts me on the Foundation that cannot be shaken, and through all humbles me, and in the end does me good.

Plashet, Second Month, 6th.—Infirmity brought home in many ways, in myself and others. Oh, if right, for a little help; but I sometimes fear that I am too anxious for more perfect righteousness, perhaps from some selfish motive, or to be seen of men, but I know not myself as I am known, and He who knows the ill best knows how to apply the remedy. My heart has this morning been melted within me, in love to our blessed Lord, and I have found great consolation in looking at his sufferings previous to his crucifixion; how deeply and acutely He appeared to feel! This affords great comfort to His feeble ones; oh, that by His stripes we may be healed!

27th.—I have a religious concern in prospect, which I am likely to lay before Friends to-morrow; but believing that to be the Lord's work, I am enabled to leave it, trusting in Him.

This entry in Elizabeth Fry's journal, alludes to some Meetings she attended on her way into Norfolk. She spent a few days at Earlham, before her return home.

Erith, Third Month, 23rd.—Yesterday morning commenced our little journey, our friends the Steinkoffs and Rebecca Christy with us, as I did not like the Steinkoffs should leave us, believing them to be fellow-disciples. My heart felt very full, with my husband, children, and household around me, it almost overwhelmed me, I had to cast my whole care upon my holy and blessed Helper, who has hitherto kept me, and cared for me and mine. Oh, saith my soul, may He preserve us, now separated, as well as together. I have had to speak to them all in testimony, in these words, "If ye love me, keep my commandments," believing that we poor fellow mortals might address that language to each other. Then upon sitting down to breakfast, I had to return thanks for bread being broken to us spiritually and temporally, and to pray for more. I deeply felt parting, most particularly with my sweet dear little babe, but I believe we parted under the canopy of divine love, and blessing. We travelled well, and comfortably here, but in the night I had a deep plunge, making me exceedingly low and nervous. The enemy appeared to come in like a flood; I sought after quietness and patience, and in due time, felt a standard to be lifted up against him, for which mercy, may I not say, "Bless the Lord, oh, my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name." I believe baptisms are necessary for our preparation and refinement for such awful services, therefore I desire not to flinch, but to pray that, if consistent with the Divine will, fears may not have dominion over me. Oh, for preservation on every hand, and be pleased, righteous Father, to be with and bless my husband and children, as well as thy poor unworthy handmaid ; enable her so to keep the word of Thy patience, that Thou mayst keep her from the hour of temptation. Amen, and Amen. Be with us, O Lord ! this day and night, that we may know our poor bodies and souls to be a little strengthened, if consistent with Thy holy will.

Plashet, Fourth Month, 15th.—I may acknowledge being carried through the seventh trouble, even by an uplifted and stretched out arm. A sweetly uniting time at Earlham, surrounded with many disciples of different descriptions—cousin P. H. Gurney, S. Nash, W. Forster, Edward and Anne Edwards, Henry Tacy, Francis Cunningham and Charles Brereton ; all the four last, clergymen. It appeared that I had to go amongst them, to encourage those whom I believe to be advanced far before myself; I was enabled to hold up their hands, my soul felt with them, and rejoiced over them in a way I can hardly describe, my own brothers and sisters also ; it was a time of great union, and much dominion of the truth. Many appeared glad to have me amongst them, and being enabled to cheer them, (or some of them,) gave me a place in their hearts that I felt required much watchfulness and fear, lest I should be exalted, but I remember that we must bear evil report and good report. Since my return, though I have rejoiced and returned thanks for again being here, for our general preservation, for our many deliverances, and for our strength in weakness, yet a degree of lowness and humiliation covers my spirits ; home brings many cares, many great and important weights. Keep me, O Lord ! I pray Thee fervently, keep me watchful, keep me faithful, keep me humble, that through Thy unmerited mercy, and through the merits of my Redeemer, I may not only be saved myself, but be made instrumental in Thy holy hand, to help those so very near and dear : enable me to watch continually unto prayer, for myself and for them, that we take not our flight from Thee, who hast manifested Thyself to be so good, so gracious, so full of tender mercy and loving-kindness.

Towards the end of the summer, which had been passed in tranquil enjoyment at Plashet, she believed it her duty to join her friends William Forster and Rebecca Christy in a visit to the families of Kingston Monthly Meeting.

Plashet, Ninth Month, 9th.—I think I may acknowledge, that although much stripping and deep poverty has at times been my portion, during my visit to the families of Kingston Monthly Meeting, with dear William Forster and Rebecca Christy; yet power, consolation and sweetness have also been felt at times, and I think our way has been remarkably made in the hearts of those we have visited. I came home with the feeling, that he that waters is also watered. The prospect of not having finished and leaving home again, is serious; but oh, for preservation and strength to do the will of God at home and abroad.

15*th.*—I returned home last evening, having just finished my engagement with William Forster and Rebecca Christy. Being at home again, and having some heavy clouds, a little, indeed, a good deal dispersed, is a great comfort and relief. We have been much favoured in our goings along; help being granted from season to season, much unity of the Spirit and general sweetness and openness amongst others. But I have felt since my return, this morning, in our frail state, how difficult it is, even when engaged in religious services, to prevent our infirmities creeping in and showing themselves, something like the iniquity of our holy things. Great as is the honour and favour of being employed in the Master's service, and the peace and consolation which attend the remembrance of it; yet I am so much aware of the evil seed not being eradicated from my own heart, that my present feeling is this, "Who can understand his errors; cleanse Thou me from secret faults, keep back Thy servant also from presumptuous sins, let them not have dominion over me ;" and how anxiously do I desire that I may not only be as a vessel washed and cleansed from impurities, contracted in being used, but also if these have shown themselves, that the most precious and blessed cause of truth and righteousness, may not have been hurt by me, but that our little labours of love, may be blessed to ourselves and others ; and now that I am come home, oh, may I labour and not faint.

Tenth Month, 14th.—I have been of late, principally occupied at home, which has its peculiar exercises, as well as being abroad; having to govern such a large household, where the infirmity and evil propensity of each one, old and young, too often show themselves and deeply try me in many ways. It confirms me in a feeling of my infirmity ; it humbles me ; yet I trust through all the discipline of the cross may be found amongst us, and through its subjecting influence, the wrong thing in measure is kept under. However, I have my consolations, and great consolations, but I find, I am not to rest even in the ruling and order of my household. Many changes in our family circle, among others, my dear sister Richenda is likely to marry Francis Cunningham.

Mrs. Fry had known many trials during the two preceding years, but an acute sorrow, and one unlike any which she had hitherto experienced, now awaited her. The death of one of her children, Elizabeth the seventh child, nearly five years of age. She was lovely, and of much promise, with her mother's name she possessed much of her nature, and more of her general appearance, effect and manner, than any of her other children. Her disposition was tender and affectionate, but like her mother's in early life, inclined to resist authority, though amenable to gentleness and love. The seeds of piety had appeared to take strong root in her heart, and she delighted in religious instruction adapted to her tender years.

Her illness was short, scarcely one week, and her suffering slight. Apprehension was only beginning to be felt, before the messenger was heard at the door. A few hours' unconsciousness followed, and the scene closed. She had been carried into her mother's room the day before, and had become too ill to leave it. Her parents, the greater part of the last day, sat over her; her mother's countenance betraying the emotions within, exquisite pain, even anguish was depicted there, and yet there was a calmness, an expression of unshaken confidence which prevailed over all. When the last sigh had been breathed, perfect stillness reigned in the chamber of death. It was broken by the thrilling voice of her mother, as she uttered the deep thankfulness of her heart. She had besought from Him who heareth prayer, that if consistent with His holy will, her little one might in mercy be spared suffering. That fear was ended, pain could not reach her now. For this her soul overflowed with gratitude; but infinitely beyond this, was her thanksgiving, that sin could no more "have dominion over her," that her child had "entered through the pearl gates into the city," and was for ever with her Lord.

Plashet, Eleventh Month.—It has pleased Almighty and Infinite Wisdom, to take from us our most dear and tenderly-beloved child, little Betsy—between four and five years old. In receiving her, as well as giving her back again, we have, I believe, been enabled to bless the Sacred Name. She was a very precious child, of much wisdom for her years and I can hardly help believing, much grace; liable to the frailty of childhood, at times she would differ with the little one, and rather loved her own way; but she was very easy to lead, though not one to be driven. She had most tender affections, a good understanding, for her years, a remarkably staid and solid mind. Her love very strong, and her little attentions great to those she loved, and remarkable in her kindness to servants, poor people, and all animals, she had much feeling for them; but what was more, the bent of her mind was remarkably towards serious things.

It was a subject she loved to dwell upon; she would often talk of "Almighty," and almost every thing that had connexion with Him. On Third day, the 21st, after some suffering of body from great sickness, she appeared wonderfully relieved, and I may say raised in spirit; she began by telling me how many hymns and stories she knew, with her countenance greatly animated, a flush on her cheeks, and her eyes very bright, a smile of inexpressible content, almost joy—I think she first said with a powerful voice,

> "How glorious is our Heavenly King
> Who reigns above the sky."

And then expressed how beautiful it was, and how the little children that die stand before Him, but she did not remember all the words of the hymn, nor could I help her; she then mentioned other hymns, and many sweet things; she spoke with delight of how she could nurse the little ones and take care of them, &c. her heart appeared inexpressibly to overflow with love. Afterwards she told me one or two droll stories, and made clear and bright comments as she went along; then stopped a little while, and said, (as in the fulness of her heart, and the joy of a little innocent child who feels very good, for she indeed appeared under the influence of her Redeemer), "Mamma, I love every body better than myself, and I love thee better than every body, and I love Almighty much better than thee, and I hope thee loves Almighty much better than me." I believe my answer was, "I hope or believe I do," which she took up and said, "I hope thee does, if not, thee are wicked." Afterwards I appeared to satisfy her that it was so. This was expressed on the Third day morning, and she was a corpse on the Fifth day evening; but in her death, there was abundant cause for thanksgiving; prayer appeared indeed to be answered, as very little, if any suffering seemed to attend her, and no struggle at last; but her breath grew more and more seldom and gentle, till she ceased to breathe. During the day, being from time to time strengthened in prayer, in heart, and in word, I found myself only led to ask for her, that she might be for ever with her God whether she remained much longer in time or not, but that if it pleased Infinite Wisdom her sufferings might be mitigated, and as far as it was needful for her to suffer, that she might be sustained. This was marvellously answered beyond anything we could expect, from the nature of the complaint; which the doctors thought would terminate in Water in the Head. I desire never to forget this favour, but if it pleases Infinite Wisdom to be preserved from repining, or unduly giving way to lamentation, for losing so sweet, so kind a child, for her little attentions were great, and her love strong to her father, to me, and to all near to her. I have been permitted to feel inexpressible pangs at her loss, though at first it was so much like partaking with her in joy and glory, that I could not mourn if I would; only rejoice, almost with joy unspeakable and full of glory. But a very very deep baptism was afterwards permitted me, like the enemy coming in as a flood; but even here way for escape has been made, and my supplication answered, the healing virtue at times much felt, the bitter cup sweetened, but at others (I doubt not permitted in mercy) my loss has touched me in a manner almost inexpressible; to awake, and find my much and so tenderly beloved little girl so totally fled from my view, so many pleasant pictures marred. As far as I am concerned, I view it as a separation from a sweet source of comfort and enjoyment, but surely not a real evil; abundant comforts are left me, if it please my kind and Heavenly Father to give me power to enjoy them, and continually in heart to return Him thanks on account of His unutterable loving kindness to my tenderly beloved little one, who had so sweet and easy a life, and so tranquil a death; and that, in her young and tender years, her heart had been animated with love and desires after Himself, and also that, for our sakes, she should so often have expressed it in her childish innocent way. My much loved husband and I have drank this cup together, in close sympathy and unity of feeling. It has, at times, been very bitter to us both, but as an outward alleviation, we have, I believe, been in measure each other's joy, and helpers in the Lord. The sweet children have also tenderly sympathised; brothers, sisters, servants, and friends, have been very near and dear in shewing their kindness, not only to the darling child, but to me, and to us all.

My dear sister Richenda being here, I have looked upon almost as providential. Sarah Tatum's presence, a particular comfort to my poor lamb. So we find, outwardly and inwardly, the "Lord doth provide."

Extract from a letter of Richenda Gurney's, to her sister Rachel at Rome, dated Plashet, November 26th :—

"I never witnessed stronger faith, more submission, more evidences of the power of grace in any one than in our beloved sister at that time; I felt it a mercy to be a humble sharer in the rich portion granted her in this hour of need ; never was I more impressed with the blessedness which is experienced by those who have served the Lord Jesus, who have preferred Him above all things, who have been willing to take up their daily cross to follow Him. He is not a hard Master ; He never leaves nor forsakes His own, and will show himself strong, in behalf of those whose hearts are perfect towards Him. After a few minutes, we retired with our dear sister into the next room. She was desirous that children and servants, (especially the nurses) and all her friends who had been present, should come to her; when thus surrounded, as she lay on the sofa, she poured out her heart in thanksgiving and prayer, in a manner deeply affecting and edifying ; for myself, I felt it highly valuable, and would not but have been there for a great deal. Whilst memory lasts, I think and hope I never shall forget the scene, or the impression it made.

From among many letters of sympathy and affection received at this period of deep sorrow, the following extract is taken from one written by her beloved brother Joseph John Gurney.

"Norwich, *Eleventh Month*, 24*th*.

"My dearest Sister,

"I think it right to send a few lines of acknowledgment in return for the affecting account received to-day of thy beloved child. Thou wilt not doubt the sympathies of Earlham, nor can we doubt, that thou, dearest Betsy wilt have to acknowledge, under these painful circumstances, whatever may be the result, the tender mercies of Him, whose fostering hand is over thee and thine, for good. May we all be enabled to place a still more sure confidence in Him, life calls loudly for it."

Plashet, Eleventh Month, 27*th*.—Man is not to live by bread alone, but by every word of God. It appears now my case, in my deep sorrow; I am not, indeed, to live by bread alone, but to be nourished, and kept alive by that inward powerful word, that cometh from God, and by every word being renewed in the needful time; I feel no other sure source of consolation, abundant mercy has indeed been shown me, my weaknesses met, and my prayers answered, even about smaller things. Although it pleases my Heavenly Father thus to chastise me, yet I am permitted to feel that He doth love those whom He chasteneth. I feel His love very near, and like a tender parent, that may see right to inflict the rod, rather, perhaps, than spoil the child; yet the same hand administers the salve to the wound, and cherishes the more tenderly after it, and makes manifest to His poor child that although a deep wound, it is in mercy, and to the unspeakable gain of one most tenderly beloved, having taken her from the conflict of time, and (I humbly trust) permitted her an entrance into the enduring joys of eternity; and that, through the blood and power of her Redeemer, she has been washed and made clean. Though from her tender years, and good and innocent spirit, we believed her remarkably ready, still I saw and felt need of a Saviour, even for such a little child; for of course, she had some childish trangressions, or little deviations, but I believe that they were all washed away, and that indeed reconciliation was obtained,as far as there ever had been any separation. So I cannot help hoping that she was ripe for glory.

28*th*.—Dearest Lord, be pleased to arise a little in Thy own power, for the help of Thy poor unworthy servant and handmaid; and if consistent with Thy holy will, to dispel some of her distressing feelings, and make her willing to part with and commit to the earth her beloved child's body, and once more to grant an evidence that her soul is at rest with Thee in heaven, and that this awful trying occasion of her funeral, may, in the end, be like balm to the wound.

30*th*.—Once more my supplications were answered—the bitter conflict that I was permitted to feel during the night, and the morning previous to the funeral of my beloved child, was in the needful time mitigated, and strength granted to give up her remains to the grave, I hope without a murmur; but although faith tells us that the spirit is indeed fled from its earthly house, yet the distress felt in parting with the body, I can hardly describe; for the body of little children, their innocent and beautiful faces and forms, we are prone to delight in; and there is a sort of personal attachment towards little children, that partakes of the nature of animal life, which I believe is hardly to be described, but only fully known to parents. This perhaps would make us cling more, even to the poor body—which I felt certainly wonderfully vacant after its blessed inhabitant was fled—yet partly perhaps from nervous weakness, my remaining love to the body, its sweet looks, and some thinking we might keep it longer; also feeling that the last relics of my much loved, kind, and to me beautiful lamb, were then about to leave us here for ever, was a pinch to the natural part not to be told: I felt really ill. But I may indeed return thanks unto Him who has given us the victory, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. This I have been permitted to feel, for my child's death at the time had lost its sting, and the grave its victory—for my soul was upheld in the needful time, though so great had been my dread, that I was enabled to pray for help before I left the house, and also to return thanks at the grave for the tender mercy shown to her, and to me, and to all; and afterwards in the room at the Meeting-House, to encourage others to serve the Most High, seeing how great was His loving kindness and tender mercy; and that the uncertainty of time called for standing prepared. This morning, my poor soul has felt refreshed in once more being enabled, before my household, to cast my care upon my Holy Helper, and to pray for fresh ability in performing the duties of life, and indeed that this event might be sanctified to us all.

Plashet, Twelfth Month, 1st.—I have been enabled in measure to arise and attend to the business of life, but a cloud appeared to rest over me, in remembrance of what we have lost; but when enabled to view her with her Heavenly Father, and out of the reach of all harm, then I can go more cheerfully on my way, and enjoy my remaining blessings; particularly my children, though every thing of the earth has been made I think increasingly to shake, in my view. But I desire that this feeling may increase in my mind; she cannot return to me, but I may go to her. Ah! may I not say, how hast Thou helped her that is without power! How savest Thou the arm that has no strength. May I be more willing to be faithful in the gift at all times, in all places, in weakness and in strength.

Plashet, 2nd.—I am brought into some conflict this morning, respecting my attending the Dorsetshire Quarterly Meeting. I had looked to it before the illness of our dear lamb, and not feeling clear of it, and yet not much light shining upon it, my poor soul is tried within me; for under my present circumstances, I appear much to want the help of faith to leave my other sweet lambs; but ought I not rather to feel renewed stimulus, seeing how short time is, to do what comes to hand, and after all that I have experienced, should I not rather trust than be afraid, for was the hand of Providence ever more marked, even as it related to outward things. I believe I am fully resigned to go, if it be the Lord's will, for I do believe for all my many and great infirmities, my flinching nature, my want of faith and patience, yet it remains my first desire, to do or to suffer according to the Divine will. If consistent with Thy Holy Will, dearest Lord, if I ought to go be pleased to throw a little light upon the subject, and if not, somehow make it manifest; and if Thou should think fit to call Thy poor child into Thy service, be pleased to be with her in it, and bless her labours of love, where her lot may be cast, that others may be made sensible how good a God Thou art, how great is Thy tender mercy and loving kindness, and that these may be encouraged yet to serve Thee, more with the whole heart; also be pleased, dearest Lord, if Thou should so order it that I go, to keep my beloved husband, children and household in my absence, that no harm may come to them spiritually nor bodily. Thou hast in abundant mercy regarded the weak estate, and infirm condition of Thy handmaid, and hitherto answered her cry, and even met her in her weakness, that if not asking in her own will, she could supplicate Thee, that their poor bodies as well as their souls, may be preserved from (much) harm in her absence; but, dearest Lord, let me not go, if my right place be at home; but if Thou callest me out, be pleased to grant a little faith, and a little strength, that I may go forth in Thy power, trusting in Thee, as it relates to them, as well as to myself. Be pleased also if I be called from home at such a time, not to let it try or weaken the faith of others; but rather may it tend to confirm and strengthen it.

Plashet, 11th.—Truly I went forth weeping, and my sweet Louisa being poorly much increased my anxiety, and it is difficult to say the fears and doubts that crept in, on my way to Shaftesbury, though through mercy the enemy's power appeared limited, and my fears gained no dominion over me, but they were soon quieted, and I had mostly quiet, comfortable nights, though it was wading through deep waters, and in great weakness; yet help was from season to season administered.

Plashet, 14th.—It is the opinion of medical men that the scarlet fever, in a mild form, is the complaint in the house; it is most probable that it will appear again amongst us, but that, I desire to leave. They also think our dear Rachel has a very serious hip complaint, but this I also feel disposed not to be very anxious about. With regard to my tenderly beloved little Betsy, she is in my most near and affectionate remembrance, by night, and by day; when I feel her loss, and view her little (to me) beautiful body in Barking burying-ground, my heart is pained within me: but when, with the eye of faith, I can view her in an everlasting resting place in Christ Jesus, where indeed no evil can come nigh her dwelling, then I can rest even with sweet consolation; and I do truly desire that when her loss is so present with me as it is at times, that I cannot help my natural spirits being much overwhelmed, that I may be preserved from any thing like repining or undue sorrow, or in any degree depreciating the many blessings continued; particularly so many sweet dear children being left us, for through all, I feel receiving them a blessing, having their life preserved a blessing, and in the sweet lamb who is taken, I have felt a blessing in her being taken away; such an evidence of faith has been granted that it is in mercy, and at the time such a feeling of joy on her account. It is now softened down into a very tender sorrow, the remembrance of her is inexpressibly sweet, and I trust that the whole event has done me good, as I peculiarly feel it an encouragement to suffer whatever is appointed me; that being (if it may ever be my blessed allotment) made perfect through suffering, I may be prepared to join the purified spirits of those that are gone before me; and having felt so very deeply, I am almost ready to think has a little prepared my neck for the yoke of suffering.

Plashet, First Month, 11th, 1816.—The turning a new year I felt very much, more particularly the change in the last, in our beloved Betsy being taken from us. I little expected so soon upon entering this, to have one so deeply beloved as my brother Samuel, so seriously ill; I have from his early years prayed for him, and interceded with strong intercession of spirit that he might not be hurt by evil. I hardly knew how to give him up, and my soul has craved, that if right, he may live to continue to be a blessing to his family, an ornament to the Church, and to show forth the praise of his Great Lord and Master.

Plashet, Third Month, 10th.—I returned home, after being at Stamford Hill for change of air; but my cough, &c., &c., continues very poorly, but through abundant mercy, a calm, and not unfrequently a cheerful spirit is my portion; though I do not feel dwelling so evidently near the fountain and source of all good, as I desire, at least fears arise for myself, though it appears due to acknowledge that the fountain and source of all good dwells near me, so that some things which would at times have ruffled and troubled me a good deal, have passed quietly, nay, comfortably by; as if in this time of weakness of body, I was shielded in degree from the storms. My views of these trials continue at times to be rather unusually calmed, at least not often so dreadful as at some former periods. I feel, although I expect to get through my approaching confinement, my life more concerned in my present lung complaint, than it often has been in more painful and trying attacks ; but at present, unworthy as I am, this does not excite uneasiness, though perhaps it might, if I believed it more serious than I do ; but at times I have that hope in my Redeemer, not in myself, but in Him who has already visited and cared for me, in Him whom my soul has loved, and at seasons rejoiced in, in Him to whom in weakness I have sought to prove my love, by serving Him through His own help, that I am ready to believe, nay, to trust, that He will be with me to the end ; that He will not leave nor forsake his unworthy one, that He will yet sustain her, in doing and in suffering, as far as He may be pleased to call into either ; that after carrying her through all the remaining conflicts of time, He will even continue to be with her to all eternity ; and where He lives and reigns, there she expects to find everlasting rest and peace. Thou hast, gracious Lord, been a merciful God to me, that hast granted me help and strength, in the name of Thy beloved Son, Thou hast visited and anointed my unworthy soul.

Plashet, Fourth Month, 3rd.—Since writing the last journal, much feeling of illness and lowness of spirits have been my portion ; but how much do I desire quietness and patience, in this straitened place, where the waves and billows are in measure permitted to pass over my head. It is indeed like a cloud resting over the tabernacle, so that I cannot perceive clearly the comforts and blessings that surround me. I felt a little ray of comfort this morning, in these words, " My King and my God," for however tried, however afflicted, however clouded, we may be, in this there is indeed hope and consolation, (if it please Almighty loving-kindness to permit us to see it,) even to feel that the Most High is our King and our God; that He hath in abundant mercy manifested Himself to be so, and that now and then, through the help of our Redeemer, we have been enabled to prove that we have sought to serve Him, and desired that He alone should be our King and our God. Dearest, kindest Lord, Thou who hast regarded me, and dispersed many clouds for me, be pleased yet to regard me whatever be my state, however low I may be brought before Thee, and in Thine own time disperse my clouds, let the sun arise as with clear shining after rain, and if consistent with Thy Holy Will, let not fear nor irritability gain dominion over me; but be Thou my King and my God, from season to season, scattering all mine enemies before my face that they overcome me not; and if consistent with Thy Holy Will, permit no conflict, either before, at, or after my confinement, really to overcome body, soul or spirit; but as my day is so may my strength be. I believe my present indisposition may be increased by my long confinement to two rooms for my cough, now nearly a month; and not a little from sorrow and distress. I have known much this winter; the loss of my lovely child—the frequent illnesses in the house amongst the family—loss of property—my own long cough; yet I know hardly any trial, except indeed real evil, that appears so greatly to undermine comfort outwardly and inwardly, as a nervous state of body and mind; it calls for watchfulness on the part of those who have it, not unduly to give way to it, though I believe few things are really less in our power. It also calls for the most tender compassion and sympathy in others, even if it makes the poor sufferer appear impatient and cross; for it affects the whole frame nearly as much as a bad fever—indeed, my experience leads me to think, that such are attacks of low fever, that come under a less conspicuous form than some, and therefore do not attract so much attention, though I fully believe they often occasion greater and more acute internal suffering, than where disease shows itself more distinctly. I think these complaints are more or less general, and bring into so much conflict of mind, as well as body, that they should be received as refining trials from the Great Head, the Author of all good, and treated as such by ourselves and others.

15*th*.—I was favoured to feel much relieved and comforted yesterday in pouring forth my soul in supplication before my family after dinner; a sweet calm followed, help appearing to be very near. After all other remedies fail, what a stronghold is prayer; how has my poor soul and body been helped in answer to my supplications, more particularly those called for before others; it is, I think, a very striking evidence that such sacrifices are acceptable in the Divine sight, and called for at His hand, even in publicly committing ourselves to Him. Oh, that I were not so faithless, but more believing, then I think fear never would take the place it does; yet this is my infirmity, perhaps permitted for my good, that I may more and more know what I am, and what the Power is that we alone desire to rest upon us.

Her tenth child was born April the 18th.

Fourth Month, 27th.—Thanks, I may say, be unto my God who has proved Himself an all-sufficient Helper. A heavy cloud passed over—but fears now arise for my spiritual preservation; and my desire is great in word and in deed, to be enabled to testify of the gracious goodness of my Holy Helper. Family cares also come upon me, which my great weakness hardly knows how to encounter. The remembrance of my little Betsy has been very present with me by night and by day. Be Thou pleased, O Lord God Almighty! yet to look down upon us, and bless us, and if Thou seest meet to bless our loved infant, to visit it by Thy grace, and Thy love, that it may be Thine in time, and Thine to all eternity; we desire to thank Thee for the precious gift. I have also had a fresh trial in the dangerous illness of my beloved brother, Daniel, since his return from the Continent.

In June, her children went to Pakefield, for the benefit of sea air, where they were under the care of their aunt, Mrs. Francis Cunningham. Their parents followed them, and for a short period remained with them. It was a new position for her, to be the guest of an active devoted clergyman, and that clergyman her brother-in-law. She remained some weeks in Norfolk, and at last returned without her four elder children. Mr. and Mrs. Fry had determined upon passing the ensuing winter in London, a situation in many respects so disadvantageous for her daughters, that she left them with her loved and valued relatives. She deeply felt their being thrown amongst those who were not Friends, but the advantages of the wise care and oversight of her sister Rachel Gurney, and the privilege of associating with the brother who invited them to be his guests, overcame her objections, and she agreed to an arrangement which appears to have given the complexion to their future lives, and more or less directly to have influenced every member of the family.

Her boys remained at Earlham till nearly Christmas, when their parents had arranged to send them to school; her two children the next in age became inmates with their uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Gurney, and joined the school-room party at Ham house, which was then conducted by the kind friend and governess of their elder sisters, who has since at different periods successively laboured with them all.

Earlham, Sixth Month, 27th.—Much has passed since writing the above,—dear John Hull's death, a matter of real importance to me,—the children all gone to the sea-side, except the baby—but home was sweet to me, though much hurried by business there. We attended Barking Meeting, to visit the grave of our beloved little Betsy; it brought many tears, but I afresh remembered she was not there, but is indeed utterly gone from this transitory scene. I often pant after a resting-place with her—may it in due season be granted me, but I also at present feel strongly tied and attached to life, and have much to endear it to me.

Seventh Month, 4th.—I have been at Pakefield with my beloved brother and sister; my soul has travailed much in the deeps, on many accounts, more particularly with them, that in keeping to our scruples respecting prayer, &c., &c., the right thing might be hurt in no mind. Words fall very short of expression, of how much my spirit is overwhelmed within me for us all: our situation is very peculiar, surrounded as we are with those of various sentiments, and yet, I humbly trust, each seeking the right way; to have a clergyman for a brother, is very different to having one a friend; a much closer tie, and a still stronger call for the sake of preserving sweet unity of spirit, to meet him as far as we can, to offend as little as possible by our scruples, and yet for the sake of others, as well as ourselves, faithfully to maintain our ground, and to keep very close to that which can alone direct aright.

Earlham, Eighth Month, 17th.—I have a fear lest delicate health, and being wearied by the cares of life, and the kind care of others, should induce my indulging the flesh too much, in eating, drinking, and sleeping, which I do not desire, far from it; but sometimes the words addressed to the Church at Ephesus, as it respects the first love and first works, come home to me, when I remember how much, in the day of my first love, I watched over myself in these respects; but my constitution, for many years of my life has had such a stress upon it, that I am fearful in my own will of giving up those indulgences, that appear so evidently to have contributed and yet to contribute to its support; but I desire to be watchful and careful in this respect, which I trust I have in a measure been, but I often feel as if I were too much living to the flesh, and yet I know not exactly how or in what to alter. May I in these and all other things, be helped and guided by the Holy Spirit, for my heart's desire and prayer is, that I may offend neither in thought, word, or deed.

This letter to her two eldest daughters, Katharine and Rachel, was written after her almost solitary return to Plashet.

Plashet, *Ninth Month,* 1816, *Evening.*

My dearest Girls,

After drinking tea alone in your father's little dressing-room, and taking a solitary walk, and sitting in the rustic portico at the end of the green walk, I am come to write to you, as I cannot have your company. Only think! this evening I have neither husband nor child to speak to, little Hannah being gone to tea at the Cottage. I found it even pleasant to go and stand by poor old Isaac the horse, and the cows and sheep in the field, that I might see some living thing to enliven poor Plashet. The grounds look sweetly, but the cherry tree by the dining-room window is cut down, which I think quite a loss. The poor little school children, when I see them, look very smiling at me, and I suppose fancy that they will soon see you home. Poor Jones's little boy is still living; such an object of skin and bone I have hardly ever seen. I fear she is greatly distressed. Our house looks charmingly, as far I think as a house can—so clean, neat and lively—but it wants its inhabitants very much.

Your most nearly attached mother,

E. F.

A few days later she again addresses them.

Plashet, *Ninth Month, 27th*, 1816.

My much loved Girls,

Your letters received last evening gave us much pleasure. I anxiously hope that you will now do your utmost, in whatever respects your education, not only on your own account, but for our sake. I look forward to your return with so much comfort, as useful and valuable helpers to me, which you will be all the more, if you get forward yourselves. I see quite a field of useful service and enjoyment for you, should we be favoured to meet under comfortable circumstances in the spring. I mean that you should have a certain department to fill in the house, amongst the children and the poor, as well as your own studies and enjoyments; I think there was not often a brighter opening for two girls. Plashet is after all such a home, it now looks sweetly, and your little room is almost a temptation to me to take it for a sitting-room for myself, it is so pretty and so snug; it is newly furnished, and looks very pleasant indeed. The poor, and the schools, I think, will be glad to have you home, for help is wanted in these things. Indeed if your hearts are but turned the right way, you may, I believe, be made instruments of much good; and I shall be glad to have the day come, that I may introduce you into prisons and hospitals. "Therefore, gird up the loins of your mind and be sober." This appears to me your present business—to give all diligence to your present duties; and I cannot help believing, if this be the case, that the day will come when you will be brought into much usefulness; and

I also hope, what follows the text I quote will be your blessed experience. Read the first chapter of first Peter, from the 13th verse———

Early in December Mrs. Fry went into Norfolk, in consequence of heavy affliction befalling the family of her uncle Joseph Gurney, in the death of Joseph his only surviving son. She staid at Earlham, where her two eldest boys under the care of their aunts, were pursuing their education with the clergyman of the village. She then visited her brother Daniel Gurney at North Runcton, with whom her daughters were residing. Whilst she rejoiced in the peculiar advantages enjoyed by her children, she foresaw the probable effect of their circumstances and the influences they were under.

Mildred's Court, Twelfth Month, 13*th.*—I returned yesterday from attending poor dear Joseph's funeral at Norwich, the son of my uncle Joseph Gurney. I have gone through a good deal, what with mourning with the mourners, the ministry, &c., &c. I think I was in this respect, at the funeral, helped by the Spirit and the Power that we cannot command; though I left Earlham with a burdened mind, not having any apparently suitable opportunity of relief, hurrying away, to my feelings prematurely, of which I find even the remembrance painful; my sweet dear girls and boys I much feel again leaving, seeing their critical age and state. What I feel for the children I cannot describe. Oh! may they be sheltered under the great Almighty wing, so as not to go greatly astray.

First Month, 1st, 1817, *Evening.*—This has been rather a favoured day, the commencement of another year,—so far sweet and easy, and enabled to commend us and ours, to the best keeping, which brought consolation and comfort with it. Afterwards a very comfortable Meeting at Gracechurch Street; indeed it is like being at home returning there, and I cannot but hope that I am here in my right place.

Second Month, 13*th.*—I yesterday left my dearest boys, John and Willy, at Josiah's Forster's school; it has been a very important step to take, but I trust it is a right one, as we could not comfortably see any other opening for them. I was enabled to commend them in supplication to the Lord for His blessing and providential care. It is indeed a very serious thing to me, thus permitting them to enter the world and its temptations, for so I feel it, it caused me great lowness at first, but afterwards, having committed them to the best keeping, my soul was much comforted and refreshed, and much enlarged in love towards them, as well as the kind friends whose house I was at. Oh may it please Almighty Wisdom to bless the boys, and keep them by His own preserving power from any great sin, and may He pardon the follies of their youth.

She wrote and gave to each of her sons, the following Rules for a Boy at a Boarding School:—

1st. Be regular, be strict in attending to religious duties; and do not allow other boys around thee to prevent thy having some portion of time for reading, at least a text of scripture, meditation and prayer; and if it appears to be a duty, flinch not from bowing the knee before them, as a mark of thy allegiance to the King of kings, and Lord of lords. Attend diligently when the Holy Scriptures are read, or to any other religious instruction, and endeavour in Meeting to seek after a serious waiting state of mind, and to watch unto prayer. Let First day (the Sabbath) be well employed in reading proper books, &c., but also enjoy the rest of innocent recreation, afforded in admiring the beauties of nature, taking exercise in the garden, &c, for I believe this is right in the ordering of a kind Providence, that there should be some rest and recreation in it. Show a proper, bold, and manly spirit in maintaining amongst thy playfellows a religious character, and a strict attention to all the religious duties; remember these texts to strengthen thee in it— "For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of Man be ashamed, when He shall come in His own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels."— Luke ix. 26. "But I say unto you, whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of Man also confess before the angels" of God: but he that denieth me before men, shall be denied before the angels of God. Now the sooner the dread laugh of the world loses its power, the better for you. This strengthens principle in ourselves and others. Remember these words;—"All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."—2 Tim. iii. 12.

Strongly as I advise thy thus faithfully maintaining thy principles, and doing thy duty, I would have thee very careful of either judging or reproving others; for it takes a long time to get the beam out of our own eye, before we can see clearly to take the mote out of our brother's eye. There is, for one young in years, much greater safety in preaching to others by example than in word; or doing what is done in an upright manly spirit unto the Lord, and not unto man. I conclude this part of my advice by this short exhortation: "Be sober and watch unto prayer, and do all to the glory of God."

2ndly. I shall not speak of moral conduct, which, if religious principles be kept to, we may believe will be good, but I shall give certain hints that may point out the temptations to which schools are peculiarly liable. I have observed a want of strict integrity in school-boys, as it respects their schoolmasters and teachers, a disposition to cheat them, to do that behind their backs which they would not do before their faces; and so having two faces. Now this is a subject of the utmost importance —to maintain truth and strict integrity upon all points. Be not double-minded in any degree, but faithfully maintain, not only the upright principle on religious grounds, but also the brightest honour according even to the maxims of the world. I mourn to say I have seen the want of this bright honour, not only in school-boys, but in some of our highly professing Society; and my belief is, that it cannot be too strictly maintained, or too early begun; I like to see it in small things, and in great, for it marks the upright man. I may say that I abhor any thing like being under-handed or double-dealing; but let us go on the right and noble principle of doing unto others as we would have others do to us; therefore, in all transactions, small or great, maintain strictly the correct, upright, and most honourable practice. I have heard of boys robbing their neighbours' fruit, &c., &c. I may truly say, that I believe there are very few in the present day would do such things; but no circumstances can make this other than a shameful deviation from all honest and right principles: and my belief is, that such habits begun in youth, end mostly in great incorrectness in future life, if not in gross sin, and that no excuse can be pleaded for such actions; for sin is equally sin, whether committed by the school-boy or those of mature years, which is too apt to be forgotten, and that punishment *will* follow.

CHAPTER IX.

1817, 1818. Extract from Crabbe's Poems—Letter to her sister—General state of Prisons—School in Newgate—Case of Elizabeth Fricker—Newgate Association—Description from Buxton—Sophia de C——'s Journal—Vote of thanks from the City—Letters from Robert Barclay, Esq., &c.—Letters to her daughters—Notice in newspapers—Marriage of her brother, Joseph John Gurney—Extracts from letters—Winter in London—Examinations before House of Commons.

> One, I beheld! a wife, a mother, go
> To gloomy scenes of wickedness and woe;
> She sought her way through all things vile and base
> And made a prison a religious place:
> Fighting her way—the way that angels fight
> With powers of darkness—to let in the light.
> Tell me, my heart, hast thou such victory won,
> As this, a sinner of thy sex, hast done,
> And calls herself a sinner! what art thou?
> And where thy praise and exaltation now?
> Yet, she is tender, delicate and nice,
> And shrinks, from all depravity and vice;
> Shrinks from the ruffian gaze, the savage gloom,
> That reign where guilt and misery find a home;
> Guilt chained, and misery purchased, and with them
> All we abhor, abominate, condemn—
> The look of scorn, the scowl, th' insulting leer,
> Of shame, all fixed on her who ventures here,
> Yet all she braved; she kept her stedfast eye
> On the dear cause, and brushed the baseness by.—
> So would a mother press her darling child
> Close to her breast, with tainted rags defiled.*

When death has set his seal on the past, and stamped his sacred impress on the motives and actions of the departed Christian, we find a solemn pleasure in contemplating his deeds; but when those deeds are recorded by one, who has himself put off mortality, our interest becomes deepened, and we can but dwell upon the marvellous consideration of their present state of being—their thoughts—their feelings—their probable interchange of sentiment—now that, the veil of the flesh removed they see no longer as in a glass darkly, but face to face.

---

* The Maid's Story.—Tales of the Hall, by The Rev. George Crabbe.

These lines were written by Mr. Crabbe in allusion to Mrs. Fry; his acquaintance with her was slight, but his deep reading of the human heart enabled him to appreciate her undertakings, and the personal sacrifices at which they were made.

Mildred's Court, Second Month, 24th.—I have lately been much occupied in forming a school in Newgate, for the children of the poor prisoners, as well as the young criminals, which has brought much peace and satisfaction with it; but my mind has also been deeply affected in attending a poor woman who was executed this morning. I visited her twice; this event has brought me into much feeling, attended by some distressingly nervous sensations in the night, so that this has been a time of deep humiliation to me, thus witnessing the effect and consequences of sin. This poor creature murdered her baby; and how inexpressibly awful now to have her life taken away! The whole affair has been truly afflicting to me; to see what poor mortals may be driven to, through sin and transgression, and how hard the heart becomes, even to the most tender affections. How should we watch and pray, that we fall not by little and little, become hardened, and commit greater sins. I had to pray for these poor sinners this morning, and also for the preservation of our household from the evil there is in the world.

Extract from a letter to her sister, Rachel Gurney:—

Mildred's Court, *Third Month, 10th and 11th.*

My heart, and mind, and time, are very much engaged in various ways. Newgate is a principal object, and I think until I make some attempt at amendment in the plans for the women, I shall not feel easy; but if such efforts should prove unsuccessful, I think that I should then have tried to do my part and be easy. My own Monthly Meeting, though absent from it, is rather a weight, and Gracechurch Street I am also much interested about. I have gone besides to only one London Meeting, all the time that I have been here. The poor occupy me little more than at the door—as I cannot go after them, with my other engagements; the hanging at Newgate does not overcome me as it did at first, and I have only attended one woman since the first. I see and feel the necessity of caution in this respect, and mean to be on my guard about it, and run no undue risk with myself.

I have felt in thy taking care of my dearest girls, that thou art helping me to get on with some of these important objects, that I could not well have attended to, if I had had all my dear flock around me.

The disgraceful state in which many of the prisons of the British empire were found thirty years ago, excites our astonishment, and we naturally seek to account for the continuance of so crying an evil.

That the sceptical philosophy which prevailed towards the end of the last century, was unfavourable to questions of moral and religious reform, we cannot doubt. Whether the startling events of the French Revolution—the tremendous wars that followed it—the rise and fall of empires—had so engrossed the attention and drained the resources of the English nation, that improvement at home was neglected; or whether looking to a still deeper source, it may be attributed to that tendency to degenerate inherent in all human institutions, the fact is indisputable. Howard and his humane exertions appear to have been forgotten, and Acts of Parliament to have become a dead letter; some, if not all the provisions of those acts, being in the vast majority of gaols, openly violated. For Counties as well as Boroughs, an old gate-house, or the ancient feudal castle, with its dungeons, its damp, close and narrow cells, and its windows overlooking the street, often formed the common prison of offenders of either sex, and of all grades of crime. The danger of escape was provided against, by heavy irons and fetters. Dirt and disease abounded: and even where the building contained wards and yards, the women were imperfectly separated from the men, whilst idleness, gambling, drinking, and swearing, were habitual amongst them. These evils were magnified by the crowded state of the prisons; for crime had enormously increased, and convictions more than doubled within the ten preceding years. Of the prisons for the counties, those of Bury, Ilchester, Gloucester, with a few others formed honourable exceptions to the general rule; and in the Metropolis, the Penitentiary at Millbank, which had been recently erected.

The moral contamination produced by the disorderly state of prisons, was beginning to be perceived, and the necessity for stricter discipline and better regulations to be acknowledged.

In the United States of America, and in a few instances on the continent of Europe, the experiment had been tried, and with such success as to establish the principle, that classification, employment and instruction tended to the reformation of the criminal, and to the decrease of crime. A deputation of the Gaol Committee of the Corporation of London was appointed in 1815, to visit several gaols in England, especially that of Gloucester, with a view to the amelioration of those under their own jurisdiction. From this resulted some improvements in Newgate. The women from that time occupied the whole of the quadrangle, now called the "women's side;" including what were formerly the state apartments; mats were provided for them to sleep on. Double gratings, with a space between, were placed to prevent close communication with their visitors, who were of both sexes, and many of them as vile and desperate as themselves; but to overcome the difficulty thus presented, in receiving the contributions of those whose curiosity brought them to the spot, wooden spoons fastened to long sticks were contrived by the prisoners, and thrust across the intervening space. Notwithstanding these improvements, they remained in an unchecked condition of idleness, riot, and vice of every description. They were of the lowest sort—the very scum both of the town and country—filthy in their persons, disgusting in their habits, and ignorant not only of religious truth but of the most familiar duties of common life.

At the suggestion of her brother-in-law the late Samuel Hoare, Esq., Mrs. Fry had, in the interval between 1813 and 1816, accompanied him on a visit to the women in Cold Bath Fields House of Correction, whose neglected state had much impressed him. Mr. Hoare, with another of her brothers-in-law, the late Sir T. F. Buxton, and some of her personal friends, were at this time occupied in forming a society for the reformation of the juvenile depredators, who infested London, in gangs. This object led them into different prisons, where their attention was soon attracted to the subject of prison discipline. Although not originating in this cause, it may be presumed, that the conversation and influence of these gentlemen would tend to keep alive in the mind of Mrs. Fry, the interest awakened in 1813 for the female prisoners in Newgate. As in that instance, so at this time, her journal fails to convey any explicit information respecting her visits there. We are indebted to other sources, for the fact, that they were recommenced about Christmas, 1816.

On her second visit, she was, at her own request, left alone amongst the women for some hours; and on that occasion, she read to them the parable of the Lord of the vineyard, in the 20th chapter of St. Matthew, and made a few observations on the eleventh hour, and on Christ having come to save sinners, even those who might be said to have wasted the greater part of their lives, estranged from Him. Some asked who Christ was; others feared that their day of salvation was passed.

Their children, who were almost naked, were pining for want of proper food, air, and exercise. Mrs. Fry, on this occasion, particularly addressed herself to the mothers, and pointed out to them the grievous consequences to their children, of living in such a scene of depravity; she proposed to establish a school for them, to which they acceded with tears of joy. She desired them to consider the plan, for without their steady co-operation she would not undertake it; leaving it to them, to select a governess from amongst themselves. On her next visit, they had chosen as schoolmistress, a young woman, named Mary Connor, recently committed for stealing a watch. She proved eminently qualified for the task, and became one of the first-fruits of Christian labour in that place; she was assiduous in her duties, and was never known to infringe one of the rules. A free pardon was granted her about fifteen months afterwards; but it proved an unavailing gift, for a cough, which had attacked her a short time before, ended in consumption. She displayed, during her illness, much patience and quietness of spirit; having, as she humbly believed, obtained everlasting pardon and peace, through the merits of her Lord and Saviour. She died in this hope "full of immortality."

Mrs. Fry's views were received with cordial approbation, by the Sheriffs of London, the Ordinary, and the Governor of Newgate; although they looked upon the experiment as almost hopeless. An unoccupied cell was, by their permission, appropriated for the school-room. On the day following this arrangement, Mrs. Fry, accompanied by her friend, Mary Sanderson, and with the poor prisoner Mary Connor, as mistress, opened the school, for the children and young persons under twenty-five years of age; but from the small size of the room, they had the pain of being obliged to refuse admission to many of the women, who earnestly entreated to be allowed to share in their instructions. Mary Sanderson then visited a prison for the first time, and her feelings were thus described by herself to Sir T. F. Buxton.

"The railing was crowded with half-naked women, struggling together for the front situations with the most boisterous violence, and begging with the utmost vociferation. She felt as if she were going into a den of wild beasts, and she well recollects quite shuddering when the door closed upon her, and she was locked in with such a herd of novel and desperate companions."

Something similar must have been the effect on that faithful co-adjutor in this work, Elizabeth Pryor, at rather a later period, upon seeing the women, "squalid in attire and ferocious in countenance, seated about the yard." From the prison door one issued, "yelling like a wild beast;" she rushed round the area with her arm extended, tearing everything of the nature of a cap from the heads of the other women. The sequel too is important; for this very woman, through the grace and mercy of God, became humanized under the instruction of the ladies. After having obtained her liberty, she married; and for years came occasionally to see Mrs. Pryor, who considered her a well-conducted person, her appearance being always most respectable.

A few other ladies gradually united themselves to those already engaged in the work, and the little school in the cell of Newgate, continued for many weeks their daily occupation.

"It was in our visits to the school, where some of us attended almost every day, that we were witnesses to the dreadful proceedings that went forward on the female side of the prison; the begging, swearing, gaming, fighting, singing, dancing, dressing up in men's clothes; scenes too bad to be described, so that we did not think it suitable to admit young persons with us."*

The ladies thought some of the existing evils could be remedied by proper regulations; but in the commencement of the undertaking, the reformation of the women, sunk as they were in every species of depravity, was scarcely thought of, much less anticipated. By degrees, however, the heroic little band became convinced that good might be effected even amongst these, for intercourse with the prisoners had inspired them with confidence. The poor women were earnest in their entreaties, not to be excluded from the benefits, which they began to perceive would result to themselves, from improved habits. But whilst thus encouraged on the one side, every sort of discouragement presented itself on the other. The officers of the prison, as well as the private friends of these ladies, treated the idea of introducing industry and order into Newgate, as visionary. Even some the most interested in the attempt, apprehended that it would fail, from the character of those for whose good it was intended, from the unfavourable locality, in the midst of a great metropolis; and from the difficulty of obtaining a sufficiency of labourers for such a work. It was also urged that even if employment could be procured, the necessary materials for work would be destroyed or stolen. In recalling this period, one of those engaged in it thus writes: "But amidst these discouraging views, our benevolent friend evinced that her heart was fixed; and trusting in the Lord, she commenced her work of faith and labour of love."

---

* Mrs. Fry's evidence before the House of Commons.

Mildred's Court, Third Month, 7th.—My mind and time have been much taken up with Newgate and its concerns. I have been encouraged about our school, but I find my weak nature and proneness to be so much affected by the opinions of man, brings me into some peculiar trials and temptations: in the first place, our Newgate visiting could no longer be kept secret, which I endeavoured that it should be, and therefore I am exposed to praise that I do not the least deserve; also to some unpleasant humiliations—for in trying to obtain helpers, I must be subject to their various opinions; and also, being obliged to confer at times with strangers, and men in authority, is to me a very unpleasant necessity. I have suffered much about the hanging of the criminals, having had to visit another poor woman, before her death; this again tried me a good deal, but I was permitted to be much more upheld, and not so distressed as the time before. May I, in this important concern, be enabled to keep my eye singly unto the Lord, that what I do may be done heartily unto Him, and not in any degree unto man. May I be preserved humble, faithful, and persevering in it, as far as it is right to persevere. And if consistent with the Divine will, may the blessing of the Most High attend it, that it may be made instrumental in drawing some out of evil, and leading and establishing them in the way everlasting, where they may find rest and peace.

The woman here alluded to, was Elizabeth Fricker; she was executed for robbing, or being accessory to robbing in a dwelling-house. The following memorandum was written by Mrs. Fry, March 4th, 1817, the day preceding the execution.

I have just returned from a most melancholy visit to Newgate, where I have been at the request of Elizabeth Fricker, previous to her execution to-morrow morning, at eight o'clock. I found her much hurried, distressed, and tormented in mind. Her hands cold, and covered with something like the perspiration preceding death, and in an universal tremor. The women who were with her, said she had been so outrageous before our going, that they thought a man must be sent for to manage her. However, after a serious time with her, her troubled soul became calmed. But is it for man thus to take the prerogative of the Almighty into his own hands? Is it not his place rathér to endeavour to reform such; or restrain them from the commission of further evil? At least to afford poor erring fellow-mortals, whatever may be their offences, an opportunity of proving their repentance by amendment of life. Besides this poor young woman, there are also six men to be hanged, one of whom has a wife near her confinement, also condemned, and seven young children. Since the awful report came down, he has become quite mad, from horror of mind. A strait waistcoat could not keep him within bounds—he had just bitten the turnkey, I saw the man come out with his hand bleeding, as I passed the cell.

I hear that another, who had been tolerably educated and brought up, was doing all he could to harden himself, through unbelief, trying to convince himself that religious truths were idle tales. In this endeavour he appeared to have been too successful with several of his fellow-sufferers. He sent to beg for a bottle of wine, no doubt in the hope of drowning his misery and the fears that would arise, by a degree of intoxication, I inquired no further, I had seen and heard enough.

In a published letter, by the Honourable H. G. Bennett, addressed to the Common Council and Livery of London, on the abuses existing in Newgate, he says, in allusion to Fricker's case:—

"A man by the name of Kelly, who was executed some weeks back for robbing a house, counteracted by his conversation, and by the jest he made of all religious feelings, the labour of Dr. Cotton to produce repentance and remorse amongst the prisoners in the cells; and he died as he lived, hardened and unrepenting. He sent to me the day before his execution; and when I saw him, he maintained the innocence of the woman convicted with him, asserting, that not Fricker, but a boy concealed, opened the door, and let him into the house. When I pressed him to tell me the name of the parties concerned, whereby to save the woman's life, he declined complying without a promise of pardon; I urged as strongly as I could, the crime of suffering an innocent woman to be executed to screen criminal accomplices; but it was all to no effect, and he suffered, maintaining to the last the same story. With him was executed, a boy of nineteen or twenty years of age, whose fears and remorse Kelly was constantly ridiculing."

Mildred's Court, Third Month, 11th.—My mind too much tossed by a variety of interests and duties—husband, children, household, accounts, Meetings, the Church, near relations, friends, and Newgate—most of these things press a good deal upon me. I hope I am not undertaking too much, but it is a little like being in the whirlwind, and in the storm; may I not be hurt in it, but enabled quietly to perform that which ought to be done; and may it all be done so heartily unto the Lord, and through the assistance of His grace, that if consistent with His Holy Will, His blessing may attend it, and if ever any good be done, that the glory of the whole work may be given where it is alone due.

19*th*.—I yesterday applied to our Monthly Meeting for liberty to join William Forster, in paying a religious visit to the families of Gracechurch Street; I think I had reason to be encouraged, from the solemn covering over us, and also the unity expressed by Friends. I thought it a great mercy and favour to have the unity of all; but I desire not to place undue dependence even on this, though it is sweet, and I esteem it a great blessing to have it. My dear sister Elizabeth was particularly favoured in what she said. If permitted to enter this service, may the Lord be with us in it, and bless us. I have not at present felt much burdened by the prospect; I consider it an honour, favour, and blessing to be engaged in the service of our great Master, even if humiliations, trials and crosses attend it.

20*th*.—Thou Lord, who knowest my heart and my wants, be pleased to help me under them; also permit Thy poor child to ask Thee, yet to look down upon her husband, children, brothers and sisters for good, upon all those most near and dear to her, and particularly those who are in trial.

Fourth Month, 12*th*.—I have found in my late attention to Newgate, a peace and prosperity in the undertaking, that I seldom, if ever, remember to have done before. A way has very remarkably been opened for us, beyond all expectations, to bring into order the poor prisoners; those who are in power are so very willing to help us, in short the time appears come to work amongst them. Already, from being like wild beasts, they appear harmless and kind. I am ready to say, in the fulness of my heart, surely "it is the Lord's doing, and marvellous in our eyes;" so many are the providential openings of various kinds. Oh! if good should result, may the praise and glory of the whole, be entirely given where it is due by us, and by all, in deep humiliation and prostration of spirit.

In the month of April, 1817, the wife of a clergyman, and eleven members of the Society of Friends, formed themselves into "An Association for the Improvement of the Female Prisoners in Newgate." The object they had in view is stated to have been, "To provide for the clothing, the instruction, and the employment of the women; to introduce them to a knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, and to form in them, as much as possible, those habits of order, sobriety and industry, which may render them docile and peaceable whilst in prison, and respectable when they leave it." On comparing these intentions with the existing state of things, it is easy to believe that the scheme was viewed by those in authority as highly desirable, but almost impracticable. Still to their honour be it spoken, they promised and gave their warmest co-operation.

The concurrence of the sheriffs and city magistrates was asked and obtained. But the doubt still remained, how far the women would submit to the restraints, which it would be needful to impose upon them, in order to effect this change. To ascertain this, the sheriffs met the ladies one Sunday afternoon at Newgate; the women were assembled, and in their presence, as well as that of the ordinary and governor, they were asked by Mrs. Fry, whether they were willing to abide by the rules, which it would be indispensable to establish amongst them, for the accomplishment of the object so much desired by them all. The women, fully and unanimously, assured her of their determination to obey them strictly. The sheriffs also addressed them, giving the plan the countenance of their approbation; and then turning to Mrs. Fry and her companions, one of them said, "Well, ladies, you see your materials."

How they used these "materials," and the blessing permitted to attend their exertions, is demonstrated by a letter received in 1820, from one of the prisoners then present.

"To Mrs. Fry.

"Parramatta, New South Wales, *July* 10*th*, 1820.

"Honoured Madam,

"The duty I owe to you, likewise to the benevolent Society to which you have the honour to belong, compels me to take up my pen to return to you my most sincere thanks for the heavenly instruction I derived from you and the dear friends, during my confinement in Newgate.

"In the month of April, 1817, how did that blessed prayer of your's sink into my heart; and as you said, so have I found it, that when no eyes see, and no ears hear, that God both sees and hears, and then it was that the arrow of conviction entered my hard heart, and in Newgate, it was that poor Harriet S——, like the prodigal son, came to herself, and took with her words, and sought the Lord; and truly can I say with David, 'Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now have I learned Thy ways, O Lord!' and although affliction cometh not forth of the dust, yet how prone have I been to forget God my Maker, who can give songs in the night; and happy is that soul that when affliction comes, can say with Eli, 'It is the Lord,' or with David, 'I was dumb, and I opened not my mouth, because Thou didst it,' and Job, when stripped of every comfort, 'Blessed be the Lord who took away, as well as gave'—and may the Lord grant every one that is afflicted, such an humble spirit as theirs. Believe me, my dear madam, I bless the day that brought me inside of Newgate walls, for then it was that the rays of Divine truth shone into my dark mind; and may the Holy Spirit shine more and more upon my dark understanding, that I may be enabled so to walk, as one whose heart is set to seek a city whose builder and maker is God. Believe me, my dear madam, although I am a poor captive in a distant land, I would not give up having communion with God one single day for my liberty; for what is the liberty of the body, compared with the liberty of the soul? and soon will that time come, when death will release me from all the earthly fetters that hold me now, for I trust to be with Christ, who bought me with His precious blood. And now, my dear madam, these few sincere sentiments of mine I wish you to make known to the world, that the world may see that your labour in Newgate has not been in vain in the Lord. Please to give my love to all the dear friends, and Dr. Cotton, Mr. Baker, Simpson and all, the keeper of Newgate, and all the afflicted prisoners; and although we may never meet on earth again, I hope we shall all meet in the realms of bliss, never to part again. Please give my love to Mrs. Stennett and Mrs. Guy.

"And believe me to remain,
"Your humble servant,
"HARRIET S——."

The remainder of the history will be better told in the words of Sir T. F. Buxton. It is true that his description of the early labours of the Ladies' Newgate Association has been repeatedly before the public; but there will probably be some into whose hands this book may fall, who may not have perused it, and others, from whose memory it may have passed. We do not hesitate, therefore, to make use of details so graphic, narrated as they are by one whose exertions to benefit these "outcasts of the people," were only excelled by her's, of whom he wrote.*

"Having succeeded so far, the next business was to provide employment. It struck one of the ladies, that Botany Bay might be supplied with stockings, and indeed all articles of clothing, of the prisoners' manufacture, She therefore, called upon Messrs. Richard Dixon and Co., of Fenchurch Street, and candidly told them, that she was desirous of depriving them of this branch of their trade, and stating her views begged their advice. They said at once, that they should not in any way obstruct such laudable designs, and that no further trouble need be taken to provide work for they would engage to do it. Nothing now remained but to prepare the room; and this difficulty was obviated, by the sheriffs sending their carpenters. The former laundry speedily underwent the necessary alterations, was cleaned and white-washed, and in a very few days, the Ladies' Committee assembled in it all the tried female prisoners. One of the ladies, Mrs. Fry, began by describing to them the comforts to be derived from industry and sobriety, the pleasure and profit of doing right; and contrasted the happiness and peace of those who are dedicated to a course of virtue and religion, with that experienced in their former life, and its present consequences; and describing their awful guilt in the sight of God appealed to themselves, whether its wages, even here, were not utter misery and ruin. She then dwelt upon the motives which had brought the ladies into Newgate; they had left their homes and their families, to mingle amongst those from whom all others fled; animated by an ardent and affectionate desire to rescue their fellow-creatures from evil, and to impart to them that knowledge, which they, from their education and circumstances, had been so happy as to receive.

---

* An Enquiry whether crime and misery are produced or prevented by our present system of Prison Discipline. Third Edition, 1818, page 109.

"She then told them, that the ladies did not come with any absolute and authoritative pretensions; that it was not intended they should command, and the prisoners obey, but that it was to be understood, all were to act in concert; that not a rule should be made, or a monitor appointed, without their full and unanimous concurrence; that for this purpose, each of the rules should be read and put to the vote; and she invited those who might feel any disinclination to any particular, freely to state their opinion. The following were then read:—

RULES.

"1. That a matron be appointed for the general superintendence of the women.

"2. That the women be engaged in needlework, knitting, or any other suitable employment.

"3. That there be no begging, swearing, gaming, card-playing, quarrelling, or immoral conversation. That all novels, plays, and other improper books, be excluded; and that all bad words be avoided; and any default in these particulars be reported to the matron.

"4. That there be a yard-keeper, chosen from among the women: to inform them when their friends come; to see that they leave their work with a monitor, when they go to the grating, and that they do not spend any time there, except with their friends. If any woman be found disobedient, in these respects, the yard-keeper is to report the case to the Matron.

" 5. That the women be divided into classes, of not more than twelve; and that a monitor be appointed to each class.

" 6. That monitors be chosen from amongst the most orderly of the women that can read, to superintend the work and conduct of the others.

" 7. That the monitors not only overlook the women in their own classes, but if they observe any others disobeying the rules, that they inform the monitor of the class to which such persons may belong, who is immediately to repeat to the matron, and the deviations to be set down on a slate.

" 8. That any monitor breaking the rules shall be dismissed from her office, and the most suitable in the class selected to take her place.

" 9. That the monitors be particularly careful to see that the women come with clean hands and face to their work, and that they are quiet during their employment.

" 10. That at the ringing of the bell, at nine o'clock in the morning, the women collect in the work-room to hear a portion of Scripture read by one of the visitors, or the matron; and that the monitors afterwards conduct the classes from thence to their respective wards in an orderly manner.

" 11. That the women be again collected for reading, at six o'clock in the evening, when the work shall be given in charge to the matron by the monitors.

" 12. That the matron keep an exact account of the work done by the women, and of their conduct.

" And as each was proposed, every hand was held up in token of their approbation. In the same manner, and with the same formalities, each of the monitors was proposed, and all were unanimously approved. When this business was concluded, one of the visitors read aloud the twenty-first chapter of St. Matthew the parable of the barren fig tree, seeming applicable to the state of the audience; after a period of silence, according to the custom of the Society of Friends, the monitors, with their classes, withdrew to their respective wards in the most orderly manner. During the first month, the ladies were anxious that the attempt should be secret, that it might meet with no interruption; at the end of that time, as the experiment had been tried, and had exceeded even their expectations, it was deemed expedient to apply to the Corporation of London. It was considered that the school would be more permanent, if it were made a part of the prison system of the City, than if it merely depended on individuals. In consequence, a short letter, descriptive of the progress already made, was written to the sheriffs.

"The next day, an answer was received, proposing a meeting with the ladies at Newgate.

"In compliance with this appointment, the Lord Mayor, the Sheriffs, and several of the Aldermen attended. The prisoners were assembled together; and it being requested that no alteration in their usual practice might take place, one of the ladies read a chapter in the Bible, and then the females proceeded to their various avocations. Their attention, during the time of reading, their orderly and sober deportment, their decent dress, the absence of everything like tumult, noise or contention; the obedience and respect shown by them, and the cheerfulness visible in their countenance and manners, conspired to excite the astonishment and admiration of their visitors. Many of these knew Newgate, had visited it a few months before, and had not forgotten the painful impressions made by a scene, exhibiting, perhaps, the very utmost limits of misery and guilt.

"The magistrates, to evince their sense of the importance of the alterations which had been effected, immediately adopted the whole plan as a part of the system of Newgate, empowered the ladies to punish the refractory by short confinement, undertook part of the expense of the matron, and loaded the ladies with thanks and benedictions. About six months after the establishment of the school for the children, and the manufactory for the tried side; the committee received a most urgent petition from the untried, entreating that the same might be done among them, and promising strict obedience. In consequence, the ladies made the same arrangements, proposed the same rules, and admitted in the same manner as on the other side, the prisoners to participate in their formation. The experiment has here answered, but not to the same extent. They have had difficulty in procuring a sufficiency of work, the prisoners are not so disposed to work, flattering themselves with the prospect of speedy release; besides, they are necessarily engaged, in some degree, in preparation for their trial. The result of the observations of the ladies, has been, that where the prisoners, from whatever cause, did no work, they derived little, if any, moral advantage; where they did some work, they received some benefit, and where they were fully engaged, they were really and essentially improved."

A gentleman well known to Mrs. Fry, who was desirous of seeing and judging for himself of the effects of this singular experiment, visited Newgate just one fortnight after the adoption of the new rules. We give his own words.

"I went and requested permission to see Mrs. Fry, which was shortly obtained, and I was conducted by a turnkey to the entrance of the women's wards. On my approach, no loud or dissonant sounds or angry voices indicated that I was about to enter a place, which I was credibly assured, had long had for one of its titles, that of 'Hell above ground.' The court-yard into which I was admitted, instead of being peopled with beings scarcely human, blaspheming, fighting, tearing each other's hair, or gaming with a filthy pack of cards for the very clothes they wore (which often did not suffice even for decency) presented a scene where stillness and propriety reigned. I was conducted by a decently-dressed person, the newly appointed yards-woman, to the door of a ward, where, at the head of a long table sat a lady belonging to the Society of Friends. She was reading aloud to about sixteen women prisoners, who were engaged in needlework around it. Each wore a clean looking blue apron and bib; with a ticket having a number on it suspended from her neck by a red tape. They all rose on my entrance, curtsied respectfully, and then at a signal given resumed their seats and employments. Instead of a scowl, leer, or ill suppressed laugh, I observed upon their countenances an air of self-respect and gravity, a sort of consciousness of their improved character, and the altered position in which they were placed. I afterwards visited the other wards, which were the counterparts of the first."

Encouraged by many concurring circumstances, the newly formed Ladies' Committee, now for the first time introduced a matron into Newgate. The prisoners were divided into classes, and placed under her superintendence. She was eventually paid in part by the Corporation; and received in addition twenty pounds a-year from the funds of the Ladies' Association. They furnished the rooms appropriated to her, and she was regarded as their servant. The yards-woman was also appointed and paid by them.

Previous to the appointment of the matron, and until she was thoroughly established in her office, some of the ladies spent the whole day in the prison amongst the women; taking a little provision for themselves in a basket, or remaining without any; and for a long time afterwards, one or two of them, never failed to spend some hours daily in this important field of labour.

From the manuscript journal of one of their number, Sophia de C——, we are permitted to present to the reader some extracts descriptive of this period:—

"*Fifth Month*, 1*st*, 1817.—After nearly a sleepless night, spent in anticipation of the scenes of the morrow, I called on Dorcas Coventry, who had promised to introduce me to inspect the important labours which the Ladies of the Prison Committee had engaged in, for the reformation of the women in Newgate, for some time past. We proceeded to the felons' door, the steps of which were covered with their friends, who were waiting for admission, laden with the various provisions, and other articles which they required, either as gifts, or to be purchased, as the prisoners might be able to afford. We entered with this crowd of persons, into an ante-room, the walls of which were covered with the different chains and fetters, suspended in readiness for the culprits: a block and hammer were placed in the centre of it, on which the chains were rivetted. The room was guarded with blunderbusses, mounted on moveable carriages. I trembled, and felt sick, and my heart sunk within me, when a prisoner was brought forward to have his chain lightened, because he had an inflammation on the ankle. I spoke to him, for he looked dejected, and by no means ferocious. The turnkey soon opened the first gate of entrance, through which we were permitted to pass without being searched, in consequence of orders issued by the sheriffs. The crowd awaited until the men had been searched by the turnkeys; and the women, by a woman stationed for that purpose in a little room by the door of entrance. These searchers are allowed, if they suspect spirits, or ropes, or instruments of escape to be concealed about the person, to strip them to ascertain the fact. A melancholy detection took place a few days ago. A poor woman had a rope found upon her, concealed for the purpose of liberating her husband, sentenced to death for highway robbery, which sentence was to be put into execution in a few days. She was of course taken before a magistrate and ordered into Newgate to wait her trial. She was a young and pretty little Irish woman, with an infant in her arms. After passing the first door into a passage, we arrived at the place where the prisoners' friends communicate with them, it may be justly termed a sort of iron cage: a considerable space remains between the gratings, too wide to admit of their shaking hands. They pass into this from the airing yard, which occupies the centre of the quadrangle, round which the building runs, and into which no persons but the visiting ladies, or the persons they introduce, attended by a turnkey, are permitted to enter. This door is kept by a principal turnkey, and was opened to our attendant by his ringing a bell. A little lodge, in which an under turnkey sleeps, is also considered necessary to render the entrance secure. This yard was clean, and up and down it, paraded an emaciated woman, who gave notice to the women of the arrival of their friends. Most of the prisoners were collected in a room newly appropriated for the purpose to hear a portion of the Sacred Scriptures read to them, either by the matron, or by one of the Ladies' Committee; which last is far preferable. They assemble when the bell rings, as near nine o'clock as possible, following their monitors or wards-women, to the forms which are placed in order to receive them. I think I never can forget the impression made upon my feelings at this sight. Women from every part of Great Britain, of every age and condition, below the lower middle rank, were assembled in mute silence, except when the interrupted breathing of their sucking infants informed us of the unhealthy state of these innocent partakers in their parents' punishment. The matron read; I could not refrain from tears, the women wept also; several were under the sentence of death. Swain, for forging, who had just received her respite, sat next me; and on my left hand, sat Lawrence alias Woodman, surrounded by her four children, and only waiting the birth of another which she hourly expects, to pay the forfeit of her life; as her husband had done for the same crime, a short time before.

" Such various, such acute, and such new feelings passed through my mind, that I could hardly support the reflection, that what I saw was only to be compared to an atom in the abyss of vice, and consequently, misery of this vast metropolis. The hope of doing the least lasting good, seemed to vanish; and to leave me in fearful apathy. The prisoners left the room in order. Each monitor took charge of the work of her class on retiring. We proceeded to other wards, some containing coiners, forgers, and thieves; and almost all these vices, were ingrafted on the most deplorable root of sinful dissipation. Many of the women are married; their families are in some instances permitted to be with them, if very young; their husbands, the partners of their crimes, are often found to be on the men's side of the prison, or on their way to Botany Bay.

" Some of these poor women are really beautiful, and healthy, and even modest-looking; their figures fine, and their countenances not disfigured by the expression of sin. The greatest number appeared to me Irish, a very few Scotch, the former are always ignorant, and preserve the peculiarities of their national character, even in this abode of sorrow and captivity; for to them privation and hardship are well known, and their Roman Catholic profession places their responsibility to God, in the keeping of their priests, so that life is deprived of its heaviest burden, and they expect to be finally happy, if they attend even in that place, to the private ceremonies which their form of worship enjoins. I felt much more interested during my momentary glance, for some of these poor creatures, than for others. I was warned by my friend not to place too much dependence on expression of countenance, or on what they might say, as deception is the ruling temptation while here, and without much care, would produce mischief and injustice. They appear to be aware of the value of character, to know what is right, but to forsake it in action; finding this feeling yet alive, if properly purified and directed, it may become a foundation on which a degree of reformation can be built. In appealing to this statement in their breasts, and cultivating their own knowledge of it, many of the causes of former misbehaviour are crushed. Thus they conduct themselves more calmly and decently to each other, they are more orderly, more quiet, refrain from bad language, chew tobacco more cautiously, surrender the use of the fire-place, permit doors and windows to be opened and shut, to air or warm the prison, reprove their children with less violence, borrow and lend useful articles to each other kindly, put on their attire with modesty, and abstain from slanderous and reproachful words.

"It is to be hoped that by and by, a deeper and purer sense of the truths of religion may be found the cause of a real reformation. None amongst them was so shocking as an old woman, a clipper of the coin of the realm, whose daughter was by her side, with her infant in her arms, which had been born in Bridewell; the grandfather was already transported with several branches of his family as being coiners. The old woman's face was full of depravity. We next crossed the airing-yard, where many prisoners were industriously engaged at slop-work, for which they are paid, and after receiving what they require the rest is kept for them by the Committee, who have a receipt book, where their earnings and their expenditure may be seen for any time, by the day or week. On entering the untried wards, we found the women very different from those we had just left, they were quarrelling, and very disorderly, neither knowing their future fate, nor any thing like subordination amongst one another. It resembles the state of the women on the tried side, previous to the formation of the Visitors' Committee; not a hand was employed except in mischief. One bold creature was ushered in for committing highway robbery. Many convicts were arriving just remanded, from the Sessions House; and their dark associates received them with applause, such is the unhallowed fellowship of sin. We left this revolting scene, and proceeded to the school-room, situated on the untried side of the prison, for want of room on the tried. The quiet decency of this apartment was quite a relief, about twenty young women rose on our entrance, and stood with their eyes cast to the ground.

"A young woman of respectable appearance, named Mary Connor, had offered herself as mistress, for keeping the young children in order; who were separated from their parents' wards, and placed in this room. I gave those who wished it, permission to read to me, several could both read and write, some could say their letters, and others were in total ignorance, they wept as I asked them questions, and I read to them the parable of the prodigal son, as being peculiarly applicable to their present situation, they then resumed their needle-work. We next proceeded to the sick ward, (it was in good order,) and took a list of the additional clothes wanted there, and read a chapter from the New Testament, we then bade adieu to this dismal abode.

"*2nd*—Rose early and visited Newgate, (accompanied by Elizabeth Pryor,) where most of the Committee met to receive the Lord Mayor, the Sheriffs, several Aldermen, among whom were Sir William Curtis, Atkins, and some of the Gaol Committee, who had visited Elizabeth Fry the preceding day, in order to learn what had been done, what remained to be improved, and to lend the assistance they deemed needful in this important work. The wisdom and integrity of her purpose was made apparent to them, and the plans gradually expanded before each of them; nothing was precipitated, caution marked every step, and even the irritable state of City politics does not interfere with this attempt at improvement. The women were assembled as usual, looking particularly clean, and Elizabeth Fry had commenced reading a Psalm, when the whole of this party entered the already crowded room. Her reading was thus interrupted for a short time. She looked calmly on the approaching gentlemen, who, soon perceiving the solemnity of her occupation, stood still amidst the multitude, whilst Elizabeth Fry resumed her office, and the women their quietude. In an impressive tone she told them, she never permitted any trifling circumstance to interrupt the very solemn and important engagement of reading the Holy Scriptures ; but in this instance it appeared unavoidable from the unexpected entrance of so many persons, besides which, when opportunity offers, we should pay respect to those in authority over us, those who administer justice : she thus, with a Christian prudence, peculiar to herself, controlled the whole assembly, and subdued the feelings of the prisoners, many of whom were but too well acquainted with the faces of the magistrates, who were themselves touched and astonished at being thus introduced to a state of decorum so new within those walls, and could not help acknowledging, how admirably this mode of treatment was adapted to overcome the evil spirit which had so long triumphed there. The usual silence ensued after the reading, then the women withdrew. We could not help feeling particularly glad that the gentlemen were present at this reading; the prisoners crowded round the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs, to beg little favours. We had a long conference with these gentlemen relative to this prison and its objects, the wisest regulations for Prison Discipline, and the causes of crime; indeed we could not have received more kind or devoted attention to what was suggested. Elizabeth Fry's manner seemed to awaken new trains of reflection, and to place the individual value of these poor creatures before them in a fresh point of view. They talked of building a school-room, but as it would encroach on the area of the yard, the scheme was unanimously abandoned. Regulations for cooking, washing and dining were promised ; but everything at present that involves expense to the city is relinquished. Economy, not parsimony was the theme of the Lord Mayor ; private benevolence has up to this time, supplied every extra expense, besides what is termed the

Sheriffs' Gift. The Sheriffs came to our Committee-room,—they ordered a cell to be given up to the Committee for the temporary confinement of delinquents; it was to be made appear as formidable as possible, and we hope never to require it.

"12*th*.—The soldiers who guarded the interior of Newgate, were, at our request dismissed; they overlooked the women's yard and rendered them very disorderly.

"23*rd*.—I found poor Woodman lying-in, in the common ward, where she had been suddenly taken ill; herself and little girl were each doing very well. She was awaiting her execution, at the end of the month. What can be said of such sights as these.

24*th*.—I read to Woodman, who is not in the state of mind we could wish for her, indeed so unnatural is her situation, that one can hardly tell how or in what manner to meet her case. She seems afraid to love her baby, and the very health which is being restored to her, produces irritation of mind."

That the scene described by Sophia de C——, was satisfactory to the City authorities, is proved by a document which Mrs. Fry and her colleagues had the gratification of receiving a few days afterwards. But before introducing copies of these papers; it is due not only to the gentlemen whose names are appended to them, but to other members of the Corporation, to recall the cordial manner in which they accepted the services of the ladies, and acknowledged the extent and importance of the improvements effected. They had themselves experienced insurmountable difficulties in the attempt to control, or to introduce order amongst the women in Newgate, and appear to have relinquished the task as hopeless. When therefore this new system and its unlooked for success was exhibited before them, they did not start aside mistrustful of the agency, or the novelty of the proceedings, but without hesitation gave the weight of their influence and authority to uphold those efforts, which without their support, would probably have been of short duration, and of comparatively unimportant results.

Saturday, 3*rd of May*, 1817.

Committee of Aldermen to consider all matters relating to the Gaols of this City.

PRESENT:

THE RIGHT HON, THE LORD MAYOR.
SIR WILLIAM CURTIS, BART.
MR. ALDERMAN JOSHUA JONATHAN SMITH.
MR. ALDERMAN CHRISTOPHER SMITH.
MR. ALDERMAN ATKINS.
MR. ALDERMAN GOODBEHERE.
GEORGE BRYDGES, ESQ., and ALDERMAN, } Sheriffs.
ROBERT KIRBY, ESQ., }

The committee met agreeably to the resolution of the 29th ultimo, at the Keeper's house at Newgate, and proceeded from thence, attended by the Sheriffs, to take a view of the Gaol of Newgate.

The committee on viewing that part of the gaol appropriated to the female prisoners, were attended by Mrs. Elizabeth Fry, and several other ladies, who explained to the committee the steps they had adopted, to induce the female prisoners to work and to behave themselves in a becoming and orderly manner, and several specimens of their work being inspected, the committee were highly gratified.

(Signed) WOODTHORPE.

Saturday, 10*th of May* 1817.

Committee of Aldermen to consider all matters relating to the Gaols of this City.

PRESENT:

THE RIGHT HON. THE LORD MAYOR.
SIR WILLIAM CURTIS, BART.
MR. ALDERMAN JOSHUA JONATHAN SMITH.
MR. ALDERMAN CHRISTOPHER SMITH.
MR. ALDERMAN ATKINS.
MR. ALDERMAN GOODBEHERE.
GEORGE BRYDGES, ESQ., ALDERMAN, and one of the Sheriffs.

The committee met at the Mansion House, and were attended by Mrs. Elizabeth Fry, and two other ladies; who were heard in respect of their suggestions for the better government of the female prisoners in Newgate.

"Resolved unanimously, that the thanks of this committee be given to Mrs. Elizabeth Fry, and the other ladies who have so kindly exerted themselves, with a view to bettering the condition of the women, confined in the Gaol of Newgate; and that they be requested to continue those exertions, which have hitherto been attended with such good effect.

(Signed) "WOODTHORPE."

From a paper found among Mrs. Fry's other writings, we are enabled to give the heads of the suggestions alluded to in the minute of the Gaol Committee.

1st. Newgate, in great want of room. Women to be under the care of women matron, turnkeys, and inspecting committee.

2nd. As little communication with their friends as possible. Only at stated times except in any very particular cases.

3rd. They must depend on their friends for neither food nor clothing; but have sufficiency allowed them of both.

4th. That employment should be a part of their punishment, and be provided for them by Government. The earnings of work to be partly laid by, partly laid out in small extra indulgences, and if enough, part go towards their support.

5th. To work and have their meals together, but sleep separate at night, being classed, with monitors at the head of each class.

Religious instruction.

The kind attention we have had paid us.

Great disadvantages arise from dependence upon the uncertainty and fluctuations of the Sheriffs' fund. Neither soap nor clothing being allowed without its aid; and the occasional help of Grand Juries, or other charitable people.

The different arrangements of the ladies, together with the purchase of clothing for the prisoners, entailed considerable expenses; which soon proved beyond their private resources; a subscription was therefore opened to meet them, to which the Sheriffs added the sum of eighty pounds. Mrs. Fry, at an after period, related to one of her coadjutors, that at this time she applied to some of her own relations for assistance in this object, for she perceived the work before her to be great, and the opening for usefulness beyond her expectation, but that to follow it up, she required the command of more money, than she could conscientiously ask from her husband. Her application was most cordially responded to by them; especially by her cousin, Hudson Gurney, Esq., and her uncle, Robert Barclay, Esq.; they gave her help, and encouraged her to persevere in her important objects, desiring her to apply freely to them whenever their assistance was required.

The following extracts are from letters of Mr. Barclay's.

Bury Hill, *November 25th*, 1817.

"Dear Niece,

"I received by this day's post, thy interesting communication of yesterday, touching the present state of Newgate. As to the excellent plan of reform of the female convicts under the care of thyself and the committee. I freely authorize thee to send to my sons, D. and G. B——, for twenty-five to fifty pounds, as in thy own opinion the case may now require.

"Robert Barclay."

"Bury Hill, *December 27th*, 1818.

"I wish thee to consider, that all my circle sympathise with thee in thy very arduous and successful pursuits of a public as well as private nature; and in any case that wants thy support in a pecuniary line, do depend on my will and ability to give thee assistance by writing me a report of thy wishes.

"Robert Barclay."

But far beyond any other assistance was that she received from her own brothers; who not only entered warmly into her objects of interest, but were unfailing in the generous support they afforded them. From that time, until her labours of love were ended upon earth, not one year elapsed in which they did not most liberally contribute, as occasion required, to her various purposes of benevolence, leaving the division to her own judgment. Thus did He, who had called her to this work, open the hearts of persons in various circumstances, each to contribute of that which he had, some in personal exertion, and cheerful consecration of time and strength; some the countenance of their authority and official dignity, whilst others poured in the needful supply of silver and gold.

Plashet, Sixth Month, 16th.—I found the prison going on in a very encouraging manner, so much quietness and order, quite like a different place to what it used to be. We may humbly trust from the fruit produced, that the blessing of the Most High has given the increase to the scattered seed.

Extracts from a letter to her two eldest daughters.

Plashet, *Third day Evening.*
(Post mark) 11 June, 1817.

My dearest Girls,

We have been daily watching with some anxiety for a letter, to say, when we were to expect you and your dear aunt, for our hearts are not a little set upon seeing you again; indeed, we long to have you all once more around us. We are a little like children at school, counting the days till the holidays. But I thought it might be well to remind you before your return, of a few needful things. You are, indeed, on your way to a sweet and happy home. But such is now your situation there, that you must, my loved girls, industriously do your part; you are young, but under present circumstances, you must be *very* industrious, very persevering, you must rise early; remember there is no governess. Then I shall expect of you diligence in your own education, and in some other things, I may want you to do;

we must, none of us, be idle; and as you are now come to an age of some understanding, I hope to find you real helpers, and at times rejoice in this hope. My dear children, remember if you wish to be real helpers to me, and to your dear father, you must take heed to yourselves, and seek to keep your eye single to Him, who can alone enable you to do your duty towards yourselves or towards us. For I am more and more convinced, that unless what we do, is done heartily unto the Lord, it profiteth little, and availeth nothing. I cannot tell you, for I have not language to express it; the longing that I have, that you my sweet dear children may go on in the right way. How far before all other things do I ask it for you. That whilst here, you may be "guided by His counsel, and afterwards received into glory." I may tell you, that your home-prospect is very bright, your little room, school-room and bed-room, all to yourselves; you must set a sweet example amongst the others, for this is exceedingly important. We hope this week will not pass without seeing you; my very dear love to your uncles and aunts. Yours very dearly,

Elizabeth Fry.

A year had elapsed since her daughters had left home, the greater part of which time they had been the guests of their uncle Daniel Gurney, at North Runcton, under the maternal care of their aunt Rachel. It was joy to be at home again; but that home was altered; the brothers were gone to school. Life which had to them seemed play before, now, had become earnest.

Plashet, Sixth Month, 20th.—My dearest boys are returned from school, and the girls I expect this evening. To be once more surrounded by our sweet flock, is pleasant, and appears cause for much thankfulness. May a blessing attend us amongst them, so that in word and in deed we may preach Christ; and O gracious Lord! be pleased so to let Thy blessing attend our labours of love, that they may all grow in grace, and in the knowledge of Thee and Christ Jesus whom Thou hast sent.

Seventh Month, 21st.—I seem kept almost always, by night and by day, going again and again to the mercy-seat; I can hardly express what I have felt at times—groanings unutterable, for the children upon their getting out of childhood, in their many temptations: some seem more beset than others, but I do trust in Him, who has done marvellous things for me, and I humbly believe will do so also for them; this is the language of faith in my heart, so that I can hardly help consoling myself with the hope that sooner or later it will be verified, "I will pour my Spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thy offspring, and they shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the water-courses. One shall say, I am the Lord's; and another shall call himself by the name of Jacob; and another shall subscribe with his hand unto the Lord, and surname himself by the name of Israel." Once in a very low time, I opened at this Scripture; and it appeared to come so seasonably when depressed about my children, some years since, from Esdras, "My hands shall cover thee so that thy children shall not see Hell."—Esdras ii. 29—32.

28*th.*—I am alone at home with my nine children, a great and very precious charge; at times they appear too much for me, at others I greatly enjoy them; I desire that the anxiety for their welfare, and to have them in order, should not prevent my enjoying thankfully, the blessing of being surrounded by so sweet a flock. I sometimes think of these words, "The fruit of the womb is his reward;" and having borne them through much fear, and at times much tribulation, I believe I should thankfully enjoy them; not improperly resting in the precious gift. How I delight to see the springings of goodness in them, the blessed seed appearing, as well as mourn when the evil shows itself. Most gracious Lord, be pleased to be with them and bless them; strengthen the good I beseech Thee, and weaken the evil in their hearts.

Eighth Month, 4th.—My having been brought publicly forward in the newspapers, respecting what I have been instrumental in doing at Newgate, has brought some anxiety with it; in the first place, as far as I am concerned, that it may neither raise me too high, nor cast me too low, that having what may appear my good works, thus published, may never lead me or others to give either the praise or glory where it is not due. And that being brought thus forward in a way I do not like, and by a person whom I do not quite approve; I may in this, and in all other things, experience preservation, for indeed, I cannot keep myself, and that this labour, if consistent with the Divine Will, may continue to be blessed, and to make progress. And for myself, that I may be kept humble, watchful, faithful, and persevering.

The change that had taken place in Newgate, was noticed for the first time in the public journals, during the autumn of this year, by a man, who has since been distinguished for his wild and theoretical views. This was Robert Owen of New Lanark. He published in all the newspapers a long letter on his system of education, in which, in order to adduce an additional proof of the effects of kindness and regular habits on characters the most abandoned, he briefly noticed what had been done in Newgate. This was, to Elizabeth Fry and her companions, a painful and unpleasant circumstance, notoriety being far from their inclination. It immediately arrested public attention, Prison Discipline having become an object of inquiry and general interest.

Plashet, Eighth Month, 28th.—I was yesterday at Newgate with Sheriff Brydges, &c., &c. I have felt of late, fears, whether my being made so much of, so much respect paid me by the people in power in the city, and also being so publicly brought forward, may not prove a temptation, and lead to something of self-exaltation or worldly pride. I fear, I make the most of myself, and carry myself rather as if I was somebody amongst them; a degree of this sort of conduct appears almost necessary—yet oh! the watchfulness required not to bow to man, not to seek to gratify self-love; but rather in humility and godly fear, to abide under the humiliation of the cross. Lord, be pleased so to help and strengthen me in this, that for Thine own cause' sake, for my own soul's sake, my beloved family's, and the

Society's sake, I may in no way be a cause of repreach ; but in my life, conduct, and conversation, glorify Thy great and ever excellent name. In all my perplexities be pleased to help me, and make a way where I see no way.

On the 10th of September, her brother, Joseph John Gurney, of Earlham, married Jane, daughter of John Birkbeck, Esq.

Plashet, Ninth Month, 19th.—I returned from attending my dearest brother Joseph's wedding, with Jane Birkbeck, yesterday; they were married on the 10th ; a meeting very conspicuously owned by the great and good Shepherd of Israel, so that we could but look upon it as a token for good ; the ministry flowed ; but the immediate visitation of Divine love was a still better thing. My brother said a few words in supplication to my great comfort and refreshment, not doubting but that the Holy anointing was poured upon him ; therefore I believe that he will be a great instrument in his Heavenly Father's hand, if he only keep very near to His guidance in heights and in depths ; but I could *naturally* feel fears for his very sensitive and tender mind—the conflicts necessary for the service are so great and deep. His dear wife I believe will prove a true helper to him. I saw them afterwards settled at Earlham.

The same day, in connexion with this marriage, she wrote to her sister Richenda Cunningham.

Plashet, *Ninth Nonth,* 19*th,* 1817.

My dear and tender love is with you. It is my anxious desire that you may all find Earlham the same sweet home that it ever has been to you, although the mistress is changed ; and that the same refreshment, comfort and liberty of spirit that we have all enjoyed there, may be continued just the same. I wished to have been there at the time you all met, that if I had had any part to take, it might have been to have encouraged all to serve their Master, in the way that they believed was acceptable in His sight, and yet, to do all that we each could to make each other's path easy and to encourage one another in the right way of the Lord.

To her brother, Joseph John Gurney.

Plashet, *Tenth Month*, 16*th*, 1817.

My dearest Joseph,

It is rather odd to myself that I should not have written to thee before, who hast been the frequent subject of my most tender interests. My heart has been raised for thy support and preservation under every circumstance.

Perhaps, my dear brother, thou wilt like to hear a little of me, though thou hast so much to occupy thy heart and mind. Few, perhaps, can acknowledge more of the abundant loving kindness of the Almighty, who in a remarkable way has dealt with me. But in blessing He has been pleased at times to permit some deep sorrows in the cup; some known to my fellow mortals, and some remarkably hidden; but this, I doubt not, has been for good. At times, even though there are so many whom I love, so many near and dear to me, "I watch and am as a sparrow alone upon the house-top," like "the owl in the desert, or the pelican in the wilderness;" but I believe "when no man seeth me, God seeth me, and when no man pitieth me, God pitieth me." I have felt also what the blessing is of having Him on our side; how doth He comfort those that mourn, and administer to all our wants. In short, though cast rather down in some things, I have felt much raised up in others, as if the power of the Endless Life shone strong in me through all; so that I may say, "though sorrowing, yet always rejoicing.' This is a most private letter, as such an acknowledgment is almost like boasting, but I believe I may say it is not so, for all I desire to convey is, that amidst all my cares, sorrows, and perplexities, through His gracious power who strengthens me, I do rejoice.

Let me hear from you soon, and believe me in near and tender love, thine and thy dear Jane's,

Very affectionate sister,

E. F.

Mildred's Court, Twelfth Month, 17*th.* — A remarkable blessing still appears to accompany my prison concerns; perhaps the greatest apparent blessing on my deeds, that ever attended me. How have the spirits of both of those in power, and the poor afflicted prisoners appeared to be subjected, and how has the work gone on! most assuredly the power and the glory is alone due to the Author and Finisher of every good work: things in this way thus prosper beyond my most sanguine expectations, but there are also deep humiliations for me. My beloved children do not appear sufficiently under the influence of religion. I am ready to say; oh! that I could prosper at home in my labours, as I appear to do abroad. Others appear to fear for me, that I am too much divided, but alas! what can I do, but follow the openings. I think that I do also labour at home; but He who searcheth the heart, who knoweth all things, He knows my faith, my goings out, and my comings in; He knows the desires of my heart towards Himself—indeed the deep inward travail of my spirit has been unutterable and indescribable; but my humble trust and strong confidence is, that He who hears and answers prayer, listens to my cry, hearkens to my deep inward supplications for myself, my husband, children, brothers, sisters, and household, my poor prisoners, and all things upon which I crave a blessing; and that being breathed in the faith, and I humbly trust through the power of the Redeemer, access will be granted them, and He who has been with me, will be with me even unto the end. Amen, and Amen, saith my unworthy, sorrowful, and yet in another sense, rejoicing soul; as I do, at seasons through all, in a marvellous manner, in all my sorrows and cares greatly and unspeakably rejoice in God my Saviour, my Redeemer, and my only hope of glory.

Mildred's Court, 23rd.—My spirit is much overwhelmed within me, this morning, but may I be enabled to look to the Rock that is higher than I. O Lord! I beseech thee, sustain me, and grant me cheerful resignation to Thy will, whatever Thou mayst be pleased to do with my little one, who is sick; either in life, or in death, may she ever be Thine, and be comforted by thy love, and life-giving presence. Amen.

Mildred's Court, 1818.—Lord, be pleased to grant the blessing of preservation which is above every blessing. It is very striking and wonderful to me, to observe how some things have been verified, that in times of great lowness and unutterable distress, I have been led to believe would happen; in reading the 142nd Psalm, these words particularly, "The righteous shall compass me about, for Thou shalt deal bountifully with me." Has not this been, and is it not now remarkably verified, by those filling almost the highest stations in life, to the lowest; by persons of almost all denominations, have I not been compassed about? My prison concerns have thus brought me, a poor and very unworthy creature, into public notice, and I may most humbly adopt this language in the 71st Psalm, "I am as a wonder unto many; but Thou art my strong Refuge. Oh! let my mouth be filled with Thy praise and Thy honour all the day;" but, O Lord! merciful and gracious, Thou who knowest the heart and its wanderings, and also its pantings after Thyself, be pleased yet to manifest Thyself to be a God hearing and answering prayer. Thou hast in times of deep adversity, and of great affliction, when the heart of Thy handmaid has been ready to say, Refuge failed her, Thou hast then been her Stronghold, her Rock, and her Fortress; so that she has not been greatly moved nor overcome by her soul's enemy. Be pleased, most merciful and gracious Lord God Almighty, now to keep her in the day of prosperity, when the righteous compass her about, and she may be for a time even as a wonder unto many. Keep her, O Lord! even as in Thine own Almighty hand, that no evil befall her, nor any plague come nigh her dwelling; and as Thou hast so far in Thine abundant mercy and lovingkindness, delivered her soul from death; Oh, be pleased to keep her feet from falling, hold up her goings in thy paths that her footsteps slip not, but increasingly enable her at all times, under all circumstances, in heights and in depths, in life and in death, to show forth Thy praise, to walk faithfully and circumspectly before Thee, obeying Thee in all things, in Thy fear and in Thy love; abounding in the true faith as it is in Jesus, ever giving Thee, O Lord God on High, with Christ Jesus our Lord, and Thy Holy Spirit our Comforter, one God, blessed for ever, the glory due unto Thee, now in time, and in an endless eternity. Amen, Amen.

During this winter, Mrs. Fry's time was occupied to an extent, of which none but those who lived with her can form any idea. The letters she received from all parts of the country to inquire the particulars of the system pursued in Newgate, were numerous. Ladies wished to form associations to visit the prisons, or magistrates to improve the state of the prisoners under their control ; these letters required long and careful answers, too much was at stake to send them off without seriously considering their contents. Some of the most distinguished and influential people in the kingdom, were anxious to witness, for themselves, what had been done in the prison ; and there was rarely a morning, part of which was not spent in accompanying such parties there. Poor people, thinking her purse as boundless as her goodwill, wrote innumerable petitions, "humbly praying" for assistance, others sought for counsel, or desired employment, which they imagined she could obtain for them : these letters required to be read and considered, and, although far the greater number were laid aside, others were of a nature, that she could not feel satisfied to pass unnoticed. Time was necessary to do any real good in extricating deserving families from difficulties. Her benevolence was of that cast, that she hardly could endure to know that others wanted the necessaries of life, whilst she was herself surrounded by superfluities and luxuries ; and it was always with pain that she refused the request of any of these applicants. The cases of many of the prisoners also, demanded much time and attention. The whole of this press of business was accomplished, with no other help than that given her by the young people of her own family, who constantly employed under her direction, were able to prevent its greatly accumulating ; and in general the communications of each day, were attended to as they were presented.

Comparatively small as her knowledge was, at this time, of Prison Discipline, Mrs. Fry had already arrived at some conclusions with respect to this important subject, which future observation and more enlarged experience tended only to confirm. The idea of a prison exclusively for women was already entertained by her, and she made some attempts to induce the authorities to adapt the College of Physicians to this purpose. It is exactly behind Newgate, and was said to be likely to be sold. The necessity of female officers, being placed over female prisoners, also greatly impressed her; which with other similar points are so clearly developed in the minutes of her evidence before the Committee of the House of Commons "On the Prisons of the Metropolis," that we present some portions of the evidence to the reader. This examination took place on the 27th of February, 1818, and the results of the efforts of the Ladies' Association, up to that date are also recorded in Elizabeth Fry's own words.

"You applied to the Committee of the Court of Aldermen? Not at first; I thought it better to try the experiment for a month, and then to ask them whether they would second us, and adopt our measures as their own; we therefore assembled our women, read over our rules, brought them work, knitting, and other things, and our institution commenced; it has now been about ten months; our rules have certainly been occasionally broken, but very seldom; order has been generally observed; I think I may say we have full power amongst them, for one of them said, it was more terrible to be brought up before me, than before the judge, though we use nothing but kindness; I have never punished a woman during the whole time, or even proposed a punishment to them; and yet I think it is impossible, in a well regulated house, to have rules more strictly attended to, than they are, as far as I order them, or our friends in general. With regard to our work, they have made nearly twenty thousand articles of wearing apparel, the generality of which is supplied by the slop shops, which pays very little. Excepting three out of this number of articles that were missing, which we really do not think owing to the women, we have never lost a single thing. They knit from about sixty to a hundred pair of stockings and socks every month; they spin a little. The earnings of work, we think, average about eighteenpence per week, for each person. This is generally spent in assisting them to live, and helping to clothe them. For this purpose they subscribe, out of their small earnings of work, about four pounds a month, and we subscribe about eight, which keeps them covered and decent. Another very important point is, the excellent effect we have found to result from religious education; our habit is constantly to read the Scriptures to them twice a day; many of them are taught, and some of them have been enabled to read a little themselves; it has had an astonishing effect: I never saw the Scriptures received in the same way, and to many of them they have been entirely new, both the great system of religion and of morality contained in them; and it has been very satisfactory to observe the effect upon their minds; when I have sometimes gone and said it was my intention to read, they would flock up stairs after me, as if it were a great pleasure I had to afford them.

"You have confined yourself to reading the Scriptures, and pointing out generally the moral lessons that might be derived from them? Yes, generally so.

"Without inculcating any peculiar doctrine? Nothing but the general Scripture doctrine; in short they are not capable of receiving any other.

"Nothing but the morals of the Scripture; the duties towards God and man? That is all; we are very particular in endeavouring to keep close to that; we consider, from the situation we fill, as it respects the public as well as the poor creatures themselves, that it would be highly indecorous to press any peculiar doctrine of any kind; any thing beyond the fundamental doctrines of Scripture. We have had considerable satisfaction in observing, not only the improved state of the women in the prison, but we understand from the governor and clergyman at the Penitentiary, that those who have been under our care are very different from those who come from other prisons. We also may state, that when they left Newgate to go to Botany Bay, such a thing was never known in the prison before, as the quietness and order with which they left it; instead of tearing down every thing and burning it, it was impossible to leave it more peaceably. And as a proof that their moral and religious instruction had had some effect upon their minds, when those poor creatures were going to Botany Bay, the little fund we allow them to collect for themselves, in a small box under our care, they entreated that might be all given to those that were going, those who remained, saying, that they wished to give up their little share of the profit to the others.

"Do you know anything of the room and accommodation for the women in 1815? I do not; I did not visit it in that year.

"What was it in 1817? Not nearly room enough; if we had room enough to class them, I think a very great deal more might be accomplished; we labour very much in the day, and we see the fruit of our labour; but if we could separate them in the night, I do think that we could not calculate upon the effect which would be produced.

"At present, those convicted for all offences pass the day together? Very much so; very much intermixed, old and young, hardened offenders with those who have committed only a minor offence, or the first crime; the very lowest of women with respectable married women and maid servants. It is more injurious than can be described, in its effects and in its consequences. One little instance, to prove how beneficial it is to take care of the prisoners, is afforded by the case of a poor woman, for whom we have obtained a pardon (Lord Sidmouth having been very kind to us whenever we have applied for the mitigation of punishment since our Committee has been formed). We taught her to knit in the prison; she is now living respectably out of it, and in part gains her livelihood by knitting; we generally endeavour to provide for them in degree when they go out. One poor woman to whom we lent money, comes every week to my house and pays two shillings, as honestly and as punctually as we can desire. We give part and lend part, to accustom them to habits of punctuality and honesty.

Is that woman still in Newgate whose husband was executed; and she herself condemned to death, having eight children? She is.

Has not her character been very materially changed since she has been under your care? I heard her state to a gentleman going through the other day, that it had been a very great blessing to her to be at Newgate, and I think there has been a very great change in her; her case is now before Lord Sidmouth, but we could hardly ask for her immediate liberation.

"What reward or hope of reward do you hold out? Rewards form one part of our plan. They not only have the earnings of their work, but we endeavour to stimulate them by a system of marks. We divide our women into classes, with a monitor every class, and our matron at the head; it is the duty of every monitor to take up to the matron every night, an account of the conduct of her class, which is set down; and if they have a certain number of what we call good marks, at the end of any fixed period, they have for rewards such prizes as we think proper to give them, generally small articles of clothing, or bibles and testaments.

"Be so good as to state, as nearly as you can, what proportion of the women, without your assistance, would be in a state of extreme want? It is difficult to say; but I think we average the number of eighty tried women; perhaps out of that number twenty may live very well, twenty very badly, and the others are supported by their friends, in some degree; when I say twenty who live very well, perhaps I mention too large a number; perhaps not above ten. I think their receiving support from out doors, is most injurious, as it respects their moral principle, and everything else as it respects the welfare of the city. There are some very poor people, who will almost starve at home, and be induced to do that which is wrong, in order to keep their poor relations who are in prison: it is an unfair tax on such poor people; in addition to which, it keeps up an evil communication, and, what is more, I believe they often really encourage the crime by it for which they are put into prison; for these very people, and especially the coiners and the passers of bank notes, are supported by their associates in crime, so that it really tends to keep up their bad practices.

"Do you know whether there is any clothing allowed by the city? Not any; whenever we have applied or mentioned any thing about clothing, we have always found that there was no other resource but our own, excepting that the sheriffs used to clothe the prisoners occasionally. Lately, nobody has clothed them but ourselves; except that the late sheriffs sent us the other day a present of a few things to make up for them.

"There is no regular clothing allowed? It appears to me that there is none of any kind.

"Have you never had prisoners there who have suffered materially for want of clothing? I could describe such scenes as I should hardly think it delicate to mention. We had a woman the other day on the point of lying-in, brought to bed not many hours after she came in; she had hardly a covering, no stockings, and only a thin gown. Whilst we are there, we can never see a woman in that state, without immediately applying to our fund.

"When they are brought in they come naked almost? This woman came in, and we had to send her almost every article of clothing, and to clothe her baby; she could not be tried the next sessions; but after she had been tried, and when she was discharged, she went out comfortably clothed; and there are many such instances.

"Has it not happened, that when gentlemen have come in to see the prison, you have been obliged to stand before the women who were in the prison in a condition not fit to be seen? Yes; I remember one instance in which I was obliged to stand before one of the women to prevent her being seen. We sent down to the matron immediately to get her clothes.

"How long had the woman been in goal? Not long; for we do not, since we have been there, suffer them to be a day without being clothed.

"What is the average space allowed to each woman to lie upon, taking the average number in the prison? I cannot be accurate; not having measured; from eighteen inches to two feet, I should think.

"By six feet? Yes. I believe the moral discipline of a prison can never be complete, while they are allowed to sleep together in one room. If I may be allowed to state it, I should prefer a prison where women were allowed to work together in companies, under proper superintendence; to have their meals together, under proper superintendence, and their recreation also; but I would always have them separated in the night; I believe it would conduce to the health, both of body and mind. Their being in companies during the day, tends, under proper regulations, to the advancement of principle and industry; for it affords a stimulus. I should think solitary confinement proper only in very atrocious cases; I would divide my women for a few weeks till I knew what they were; but I would afterwards regulate them as I have now mentioned.

"Has gaming entirely ceased? It has of late; they have once been found gaming since we had the care of the prison; but I called the women up, when I found that some of them had been playing at cards, and represented to them how much I objected to it, and how evil I thought its consequence was, especially to them; at the same time, I stated, that if it were true that there were cards in the prison, I should consider it a proof of their regard, if they would have the candour and the kindness to bring me their packs. I did not expect they would do it, for they would feel that they betrayed themselves by it; however, I was sitting with the matron, and heard a gentle tap at the door, and in came a trembling woman, to tell me she had brought her pack of cards, that she was not aware how wrong it was, and hoped I would do what I liked with them; and, in a few minutes, another came up, and in this way, I had five packs of cards burnt. I assured them, that so far from its being remembered against them, I should remember it in another way. I brought them a present of clothing for what they had done; and one of them, in a striking manner, said, she hoped I would excuse her being so forward, but if she might say it, she felt exceedingly disappointed; she little thought of having clothing given to her, but she had hoped I would have given her a Bible, that she might read the Scriptures herself. This had been one of the worst girls, and she had behaved so very badly upon her trial, that it was almost shameful. She conducted herself afterwards in so amiable a manner, that her conduct was almost without a flaw. She is now in the Penitentiary, and I hope will become a valuable member of society.

"You have stated three things, which to your mind are essential to the reformation of a prison; first, religious instruction; secondly, classification; thirdly, employment; do you think any reformation can be accomplished without employment? I should believe it impossible; we may instruct as we will, but if we allow them their time, and they have nothing to do, they naturally must return to their evil practices.

"How many removals of female prisoners have you had in the last year, in Newgate; how many have gone to Botany Bay? Eighteen women; and thirty-seven to the Penitentiary.

"Can you state, out of what number of convicts these have been in the course of a year? I do not think I can; but of course out of many hundreds.

"In fact, there has been but one regular removal within the last year? But one. There is one very important thing which ought to be stated on the subject of women, taking care of women. It has been said, that there were three things which were requisite in forming a prison that would really tend to the reformation of the women; but there is a fourth, viz: that women should be taken care of entirely by women, and have no male attendants, unless it be a medical man, or any minister of religion; for I am convinced that much harm arises from the communication, not only to the women themselves, but those that have the care of them.

"In the present arrangement, is it not so with regard to the women? It is very nearly so: but if I had a prison completely such as I should like, it would be a prison quite separate from the men's prison, and into which neither turnkeys, nor any one else should enter but female attendants, and the Inspecting Committee of Ladies; except, indeed, such gentlemen as come to look after their welfare.

"In what does the turnkey interfere now with that prison? Very little; and yet there is a certain intercourse which it is impossible for us to prevent, and it must be where there is a prison for women and men, and there are various officers who are men in the prison; it is impossible that they should be entirely separate. In the present state of Newgate, such a plan as I have in my mind respecting the proper management of women prisoners, cannot be put into execution. We must have turnkeys, and a governor to refer to; but I should like to have a prison which had nothing to do with men, except those who attended them medically or spiritually.

"Do you believe men to be as much excluded from all communication with the women now as is possible in the present state of Newgate? Yes; I think very nearly so. My idea, with regard to the employment of women, is that it should be a regular thing, undertaken by Government; considering (though I perhaps am not the person to speak of that), that there are so many to provide for; there is the army and navy, and so many things required for them; why should not Government make use of the prisoners? But I consider it of the utmost importance, and quite indispensable for the good conduct of such institutions, that the prisoners should have part of the earnings of their work for their own use; a part they might be allowed to take for tea, sugar, &c., but a part should be laid by, that there may be some provision for them when they leave the prison, without their returning to their immoral practices. This is the case, I believe, in all prisons well regulated, both on the continent of Europe, and in America. In a prison under proper regulations, where they had very little communication with their friends, where they were sufficiently well-fed and clothed, constantly employed and instructed, and taken care of by women, I have not the least doubt that wonders would be performed, and that many of those, now the most profligate and the worst of characters, would turn out valuable members of society ———. After having said what I have respecting the care of the women, I will just add, that I believe if there were a prison fitted up for us, which we might visit as inspectors, if employment were found for our women, little or no communication allowed with the city, and room given to class them, with female servants only; if there were a thousand of the most unruly women, they would be in excellent order in one week; of that I have not the least doubt."

In the report of this committee, the following sentence occurs. "The benevolent exertions of Mrs. Fry and her friends, in the female department of the Prison, have indeed, by the establishment of a school, by providing work and encouraging industrious habits, produced the most gratifying change. But much must be ascribed to unremitting personal attention and influence.

CHAPTER X.

1818. Return to Plashet—Capital Punishment—Case of Skelton—Duke of Gloucester and Lord Sidmouth—Queen Charlotte's Visit to the Mansion House—Letter to the Countess Harcourt—Maria Female Convict Ship—Visitors to Newgate, letter from Lady Mackintosh—Lord Lansdowne's Speech—Scotch Journey—Letter from the Countess Harcourt.

After the arduous exertions and interests of the winter of 1817—18, it was no small relief to Mrs. Fry and her family, to find themselves in the retirement of Plashet.

Plashet, Fourth Month, 29th.—I desire thankfully to acknowledge our return to this sweet place, and all the dear children alive and well. May we more evidently *live* in the best sense, even unto God. Since I last wrote, I have led rather a remarkable life; so surprisingly followed after by the great, and others, in my Newgate concerns; in short, the prison and myself are become quite a show, which is a very serious thing in many points. I believe, that it certainly does much good to the cause, in spreading amongst all ranks of society, a considerable interest in the subject; also a knowledge of Friends and of their principles: but my own standing appears critical in many ways. In the first place, the extreme importance of my walking strictly, and circumspectly, amongst all men, in all things; and not bringing discredit upon the cause of truth and righteousness. In the next place, after our readings there, the ministry is a most awful calling, thus, publicly amongst men to be in season and out of season. I desire to live, (more particularly in these things,) in the fear of God rather than of man, and that neither good report nor evil report, the approbation nor disapprobation of men, should move me the least, but that my eye should be kept quite single to the great and good Shepherd and Bishop of souls; this is my continual prayer for myself.

Yesterday, I had a day of ups and downs, as far as the opinions of man are concerned,in a remarkable degree. I found that there was a grievous misunderstanding between Lord Sidmouth and myself, and that some things I had done, had tried him exceedingly ; indeed, I see that I have mistaken it, in my conduct in some particulars, respecting the case of poor Skelton, and in the efforts made to save her life, I too incautiously spoke of some in power. When under great humiliation in consequence of this, Lady Harcourt, who most kindly interested herself in the subject, took me with her to the Mansion House, rather against my will, to meet many of the Royal family at the examination of some large schools. Amongst the rest, the Queen was there. Much public respect was paid me, and except the Royal family themselves, I think that no one received the same attention. There was quite a buzz when I went into the Egyptian Hall, where one to two thousand people were collected ; and when the Queen came to speak to me, which she did very kindly, there was I am told a general clap. I think I may say, this hardly raised me at all, I was so very low from what had occurred before, and indeed, in so remarkably flat a state, even nervous.

Plashet, Fifth Month, 2nd.—My mind has not recovered this matter of Lord Sidmouth's ; and finding the Bank Directors are also affronted with me, added to my trouble ; more particularly as there was an appearance of evil in my conduct ; but I trust no greater fault in reality, than a want of prudence in that which I expressed. I fear, however, that it has been construed into almost an untruth : these things are very trying to human nature and even more so for the cause sake; but I do trust that I may be enabled to stand my ground under it, and to remove these opinions. I am ready to believe that my great and good Master, will make a way for my deliverance, where I see no way.

Before explaining the cause of misunderstanding between Mrs. Fry and Lord Sidmouth; it is needful to glance at the subject of Capital Punishment, as it presented itself to her mind, at the existing state of the law, its practical execution, and the feeling of the public on the subject. Crimes of almost all grades and descriptions were then punishable with death. Almost every variety of robbery or fraud, although unattended with personal violence, could be treated as a capital offence. With respect to forgery, this was so absolutely the case, that Sir Thomas Edlyne Tomlins, in his Law Dictionary, published 1820, says, (after a long list of all manner of possible and impossible cases,) "By these, and other general and special acts and provisions, there is now hardly a case possible to be conceived, wherein forgery that tends to defraud, whether in the name of a real or fictitious person, is not made a capital crime." Such was the state of the law: so sanguinary, as to prevent the possibility of its own execution. Had it been carried into effect, it was calculated that an average of above four executions daily would have taken place, exclusive of Sundays, in Great Britain and Ireland; the Old Bailey alone furnishing an average of above one hundred victims yearly. To lessen so monstrous an evil, every possible expedient was permitted, if not encouraged. The police, by bribery, or compassion arising from a touch of old fellowship, being themselves often, but thieves turned thief-takers, connived at the escape of those whom they pretended to seek; juries shrunk from a word which brought death to the wretched culprit before them, and seized with thankfulness any extenuating circumstance to satisfy their consciences, and enable them to return a verdict of "Not Guilty." Judges inclined to the side of mercy; respites and reprieves were continually granted, when the cases left for death were considered in Council; but with all these openings for escape, the doomed were still too many, and some further expedient for lessening their number had to be discovered. The enormous increase of population, the vast and growing amount of wealth, and the multiplication of monetary transactions, added to the number and variety of forgery cases. The circulation of small notes gave great facility both to forgery itself, and uttering forged notes; and the law recognized no distinction between the systematic forger—the well-dressed utterer, passing hundreds in the day; and the foolish lad or confiding female, who misled by vanity, confounded by sophistry, or simply in obedience to the will of their betrayers, became at once their dupes and victims.

There was a system, (now but a tale of the past, and only worthy of notice as depicting the evils from which our country has been delivered, of arranging for such as *were not to die*, to plead "Guilty to the minor Count." The Bank solicitors in conjunction with some of the Old Bailey authorities, thus selecting certain individuals for deliverance from death.*

For those who pleaded "Not Guilty," there was still the chance of some failure in evidence, or some favourable circumstance coming to light upon the trial; besides the last hope of a reprieve, when the last report came down from Council. Instances there were, where "calculating chances," the accused would decline the proffered boon, and put in the plea of Not Guilty, on the possibility of entirely escaping punishment.

But besides all these contingencies, there was another cause of impunity, arising from punishment being disproportioned to crime. A humane man could not endure to prosecute for robbery or fraud, however great the injury to his possessions or loss of property might be; the life of a fellow-creature had to be weighed in the balance—the perishing things of time against the immortal spirit. Innumerable were the offenders who from this cause continued not only unpunished, but in an unchecked career of fresh offences and increasing guilt. Such was the criminal law in word, and such in practice; when men began to rouse them, and awake to the fact that crime was rapidly on the increase; whilst the laws were no longer applicable to the existing state of things, nor such as could be enforced, without a sacrifice of human life, too fearful to contemplate. Ten years before, as early as the commencement of 1808, Sir Samuel Romilly had directed his attention to the severity of the criminal code, and brought the subject before Parliament; but it appearing to him that he "had no chance of being able to carry through the House, a Bill to expunge at once all these laws from the Statute-book, he determined to attempt the repeal of them one by one, and to begin with the most odious of them, the Act of Queen Elizabeth, which makes it a capital offence to steal privately from the person of another."* It was in May that he gave notice of his intention to bring in this Bill; but we find in the Journal of William Allen, dated April 12th, allusion to an association already in existence.

---

* The Bank of England had this power by an Act, 41 Geo. III. c. 39.

"Luke Howard went with me to Basil Montague's, Lincoln's Inn. Met Frederic Smith there, and agreed to join a little society, formed to endeavour to diminish the number of capital punishments."†

Again, July 1st,

"Basil Montague, Thomas Furley Forster, and B. M. Forster, R. Philips, F. Smith, J. G. Bevan, and Luke Howard, dined with me, to converse on the subject of our little society, when several resolutions were agreed to, and we have now taken a regular form. Its title is, 'A Society for Diffusing Information on the Subject of Punishment by Death.' They are to dine with me again on Second day, the 10th, when S. Woods is to join us, and for the next six months, are to dine at Plough Court, on the first Second day (Monday) in the month, in order that we may be in time for the publications. Basil Montague is to open a communication with Sir Samuel Romilly, and it appears as if we should go on with spirit."*

---

* The Memoirs of the Life of Sir Samuel Romilly, edited by his Sons, vol. ii. edition ii. p. 245.

† Life of William Allen, vol. i. p. 92.

From that time, every succeeding Session, till his lamented death, in 1818, Sir Samuel Romilly renewed his attacks upon the state of the Criminal Code; he changed his plan of operations as circumstances required, but though for many years, almost single-handed, he never abandoned his design. Dr. Parr, Jeremy Bentham, and Dugald Stewart, addressed him in strong terms of encouragement. That Dr. Parr's ultimate views extended even further, is implied by the counsel which he offered Sir Samuel Romilly, "*for the present*," to confine his "Plan of Reform to crimes unaccompanied with violence." The association already alluded to, continued its operations, circulated tracts and other papers, and diffused general information on the subject. In the House of Lords, amongst the few supporters of Romilly's measures, Lord Holland was the foremost, and the Marquis of Lansdowne supported the same side. In 1810, we find the Dukes of Sussex and Gloucester, united with these noblemen in signing a protest, when the Peers rejected Sir Samuel's Bill, to remove the penalty of death for shoplifting.

"Dissentient.—1st, Because the statute proposed to be repealed appears to us unreasonably severe, inasmuch as it punishes with death the offence of stealing property to a very inconsiderable amount, without violence, or any other aggravation.

"2ndly, Because, to assign the same punishment for heinous crimes, and slight offences, tends to confound the notions of right and wrong, to diminish the horror atrocious guilt ought always to inspire, and to weaken the reverence in which it is desirable that the laws of the country should be held.

"3rdly, Because severe laws are, in our judgment, more likely to produce a deviation from the strict execution of justice, than to deter individuals from the commission of crimes; and our apprehension that such may be the effect is confirmed in this instance, by the reflection, that the offence in question is become more frequent, and the punishment, probably on account of its rigour, is seldom or never inflicted.

---

* Life of William Allen, vol. i. p. 104.

"4thly, Because, the value of money has decreased since the reign of King William, and the statute is consequently, become a law of much greater severity than the legislature which passed it, ever intended to enact.

"William Frederick.
"Augustus Frederick.
"Vassal Holland.
"Lansdowne."

When a party theory, or visionary scheme occasions even strong excitement, a little time and reality dispels it. Not so, when justice and humanity claim conjointly to be heard. The history of the last fifty years has taught us, that their success may be delayed by prejudice, impeded by difficulties, and opposed by selfishness; but in the end they triumph. Mrs. Fry's visits to Newgate had brought her in close communication with the condemned criminals in that prison, and had furnished her with an intimate knowledge of the effects of an execution, and the circumstances attendant upon it, nor was it Mrs. Fry alone, who, on this important subject was acquiring knowledge from personal observation.

At that time Newgate had become almost a show; the statesman and noble, the city functionary and the foreign traveller, the high-bred gentlewoman, the clergyman and the dissenting minister, flocked to witness the extraordinary change that had passed over the scene. From time to time, the condemned cell on the female side was occupied. The visitors to Newgate were informed, that on such a day, and at such a time, some poor woman, whose name and offence were told them, was to die, and that her few remaining hours were being there past in comparative seclusion. They heard of the same things on the men's side of the prison, and perhaps visited the culprits ; but invariably some females were to be seen with their fellow-prisoners seated at the Bible reading, under sentence of death : they occupied the front bench. These were persons who had received sentence at the Old Bailey, but were awaiting their final doom from the decision of the Council. A newspaper announcement that such a person or persons were this morning executed in front of Newgate may cause a sensation, but it is quickly gone. To look upon persons full of life and strength and capacity, and to know that they are doomed to die by their fellow-mortals, occasions another and a very different feeling. One woman, the day before her execution, said to Mrs. Fry, "I feel life so strong within me, that I cannot believe that this time to-morrow I am to be dead!" Nor was this confined to those who saw : the tale was repeated, the scene described, and the event, became a topic of general discussion. The statesman viewed it more especially as a political question, in its tendency to increase or diminish crime : the philanthropist considered it chiefly, as it affected the individual offender : the merchant and the man of business interested himself in a question so closely affecting the security of property.

The following rough memoranda, in the form of question and answer, were found in Mrs. Fry's writing among her papers :—

Does capital punishment tend to the security of the people ?

By no means. It hardens the hearts of men, and makes the loss of life appear light to them : and it renders life insecure, inasmuch as the law holds out, that property is of greater value than life. The wicked are consequently more often disposed to sacrifice life to obtain property. It also lessens the security of the subject, because so many are so conscientious, that they had rather suffer loss and sustain much injury, than be instrumental in taking the life of a fellow-creature. The result is, that the innocent suffer loss, and the guilty escape with impunity.

Does it tend to the reformation of any party ?

No ; because in those who suffer it leads to unbelief, hypocrisy, and fatalism ; in those who remain, to discontent, dissatifaction with the laws, and the powers which carry them into execution ; to hardness of heart, unbelief and deceit.

Does it deter others from crime ?

No ; because the crimes subject to capital punishment are gradually increasing. Punishment is not for revenge, but to lessen crime and reform the criminal.

Newspaper paragraphs were written—pamphlets were circulated ; the public mind became excited, and the voice of the people made itself heard.

On February the 17th, two women were executed for forgery, Charlotte Newman and Mary Ann James. The morning of their execution, Newman addressed the following letter to Mrs. Fry ; and James wrote one to her fellow-prisoners; these letters found their way into the public prints. The calm and submissive tone in which they were written, astonished those who know not of the fearful opiate administered to the soul, in the universal belief of criminals under sentence of death for forgery—that they were more sinned against than sinning—that they were martyrs to a harsh and uncertain law, by which property was held of greater value than the life of man—and that thus, being in the position of the injured parties, they had but to meet their fate with fortitude and submission, and heaven would be their just reward.

"Honoured Madam,

"As the only way of expressing my gratitude to you for your very great attention to the care of my poor soul ; I feel I may have appeared more silent than perhaps some would have been on so melancholy an event; but believe me, my dear madam, I have felt most acutely the awful situation I have been in. The mercies of God are boundless, and I trust through His grace this affliction is sanctified to me, and through the Saviour's blood my sins will be washed away. I have much to be thankful for. I feel such serenity of mind and fortitude. God, of His infinite mercy, grant I may feel as I do now in the last moments. Pray, madam, present my most grateful thanks to the worthy Dr. Cotton and Mr. Baker, and all our kind friends the ladies, and Mrs. Guy. It was a feeling I had of my own unworthiness, made me more diffident of speaking so brief as was perhaps looked for. I once more return you my most grateful thanks. It is now past six o'clock, I have not one moment to spare; I must devote the remainder to the service of my offended God.

"With respect, your humble servant,

"(Signed) CHARLOTTE NEWMAN.

"Tuesday morning, six o'clock, February 17th, 1818, James joins with me, and feels all I have expressed, I hope."

"Condemned Cell.

"My dear fellow-prisoners,

"Impressed with the deepest sense of your feelings for me under my awful situation, I am sure was I to ask any thing of you it would be granted. Then, was I to ask one particular favour of you all, I would flatter myself, as my last dying word, it would be granted. I would wish to impress on your minds the true light of the Gospel, and, by informing you how I found an interest in Christ; in the first place, God gave me the spirit of humility, you must feel a love and affection for those that so kindly visit this prison. Then pray to the Lord to give you the grace of His Holy Spirit, and I am sure our dear beloved friends, will acquaint you by what way that is to be found. I was dark when I first came into these walls, and what must you all suppose the love, the gratitude I feel now, I am going but a short time before you. God can call you in a moment. Then pray, I entreat you, do not neglect the great work.

"Go up stairs rejoicing as if to a bridal feast.* Keep every rule. Oh, should the Lord deliver you from these walls, think on me, and remember the end of sin is death. You all have my prayers. Oh, lay hold of Jesus. He is my refuge and my strength. Look up to Him; and may the Lord be with you and keep you all. To-morrow morning I shall be with my heavenly Father in Paradise.

---

* The daily Bible reading in the Ladies' Committee Room.

"I am your fellow-prisoner,
"Wishing every blessing, your affectionate,
(Signed) "Mary Ann James."

The same day that brought poor Newman's letter, Mrs. Fry received one from a very different correspondent, from William Wilberforce, Esq.

"Kensington Gore, *Tuesday, 17th February*, 1818.

"My dear Madam,

"I think I need not assure you that I have not forgotten you this morning. In truth, having been awake very early, and lying in peace and comfort and safety, the different situation of the poor women impressed itself strongly on my mind.

"I shall be glad, and Mrs. Wilberforce also, I assure you, to hear that your bodily health has not suffered from your mental anxiety, and I will try to get a sight of you when I can, to hear your account and remarks on the effects of the events of the last few days, both on the poor objects themselves and their prison companions.

"With real esteem and regard,
"I am, my dear Madam,
"Yours, very sincerely,
"W. Wilberforce."

During this spring there were continual executions; they were, however, no longer passed over as matters of course, but became a prominent topic of discussion, both as to the individual cases, and the general principle involved. Within the prison, the report from the Council was expected with even more than usual anxiety. It was always a time of excitement and fearful anticipation to all but those, who were so hardened by crime as to scoff alike at the laws of God and man.

There were no data by which to form any conclusion; no reasons to be discovered for the selections made; every one knew that he might suffer, and every one alike hoped to escape. Among the rest was a woman named Harriett Skelton; a very child might have read her countenance, open, confiding, expressing strong feeling, but neither hardened in depravity, nor capable of cunning; her story bore out this impression. Under the influence of the man she loved, she had passed forged notes: adding one more to the melancholy list of those, who by the finest impulses of our nature uncontrolled by religion, have been but lured to their own destruction.

She was ordered for execution—the sentence was unlooked for—her deportment in the prison had been good, amenable to regulations, quiet and orderly; some of her companions in guilt were heard to say, that they supposed she was chosen for death, because she was better prepared than the rest of them.

The condemned cell for females was a narrow apartment, with two windows, one commanding the inner quadrangle, where were the tried prisoners, the other looking into a long passage, with iron grating on either side, dividing the tried from the untried side of the prison, across which the convicts were permitted to communicate with their friends. There she was taken to pass her few and numbered days on earth; two women were in attendance upon her, according to the usual custom on these occasions. She might receive the visits of the Ordinary, or any friend admitted by the Governor, but by her the cell was not to be again quitted, till she left the prison for the scaffold.

There was a white-headed old man, who might be seen at those times in frequent attendance upon these poor captives; having for years devoted much time and attention to unostentatious but invaluable visits in Newgate. He rejoiced with no common joy when Mrs. Fry and her associates undertook their labour of love; but, never did he show more of his Master's spirit, than in his treatment of the prisoners sentenced to die; he appeared skilled in imparting to them something of his own humility, and though he could not, nor did he endeavour to persuade them in all cases to acquiesce in the justice of the sentence, he led many of them to the knowledge of being but miserable sinners themselves, and to some acquaintance with that Saviour, who had experienced in his own person a malefactor's death.

But Skelton had other visitors besides Mr. Baker; dwellers in places and lordly halls were to be found in her desolate abode; it was a new scene for them; the dark vaulted passages—the clanking fetters—the damp smell—the grating sound as the heavy key was turned—the massive bolt drawn back—and the iron-sheathed door forced reluctantly open.

Her case excited the strongest compassion: Mrs. Fry was urged even vehemently, to exert herself in behalf of the unfortunate woman; there were circumstances of extenuation, though not of a nature to alter the letter of the law. Amonst other attempts she made one through the Duke of Gloucester. They had not seen each other for many years; not since the days of the scarlet riding habit, and the military band, at Norwich. How differently did they meet now—on what altered ground renew their acquaintance. Life has been tried by them both—the world and its fascinations. The Duke of Gloucester came to Newgate; and his former companion in the dance, led him with sober if not solemn brow, through the gloom and darkness of that most gloomy of prisons. He made a noble effort to save Skelton by an application to Lord Sidmouth, he accompanied Mrs. Fry to the Bank Directors, but all was in vain; the law took its course, and she was hanged.

Mrs. Fry had strongly expressed herself with respect to the

Bank of England cases, and probably had insisted on circumstances, which, though true in fact, were difficult distinctly to prove. She had applied to Lord Sidmouth herself, and through others, and had been the indirect means of causing much excitement on the subject of Capital Punishment. Government was becoming embarrassed. To touch so complicated a machine as the criminal code of England appeared an undertaking too vast and dangerous to attempt, and yet such was the pressure from without, that something must be yielded to popular feeling. Lord Sidmouth was seriously annoyed, and expressed his annoyance in a mode so distressing to her, that with all her gentleness and forbearance, Mrs. Fry was compelled to acknowledge that she could hold no further direct communication with one, who assumed to doubt her veracity, unless some explanation was offered. The question at issue related to the power lodged in the Bank of England to select such persons as they considered fit subjects to plead "guilty" to the minor count, and so to escape the extreme penalty of the law.*

Mrs. Fry never was shaken in the belief that Skelton had had the offer so to do, but most unwisely, as it proved, had rejected it, and that through this error in judgment she had paid the forfeit of her life. Here terminated their intercourse, deeply to her regret, after the kindness and consideration with which Lord Sidmouth had treated her, and until that period listened to her suggestions. Mrs. Fry had not abandoned all hope of reconciliation, without endeavouring by a personal interview to remove his impressions, and to convince him, that although she might be mistaken, and have erred in judgment her intentions had been upright, and her desire sincere not to oppose his wishes. The Countess Harcourt, who proved herself a kind and faithful friend on this, as on many other occasions, accompanied her.

---

* 41 Geo. III., c. 29.

Nothing but pain resulted from the visit. Wounded and grieved she quitted the Home Office, to go by command of Queen Charlotte to the Mansion House, still under the protection of Lady Harcourt. There it was intended that she should be in the drawing-room presented to her Majesty, but, by some misunderstanding Lady Harcourt and Mrs. Fry were conducted at once to the Egyptian Hall, and placed on the side of the platform to await the arrival of the royal party. After a time, the Queen perceived Mrs. Fry, and, at the close of the examination advanced to address her. It was a subject for Hayter—the diminutive stature of the Queen, covered with diamonds, but her countenance lighted up with an expression of the kindest benevolence; Mrs. Fry, her simple Quaker's dress adding to the height of her figure, though a little flushed, preserving her wonted calmness of look and manner, several of the bishops standing near her; the platform crowded with waving feathers, jewels, and orders, the noble hall lined with spectators, and in the centre, hundreds of poor children brought there to be examined, from their different schools. The English nation may be slow in perceiving the beauty of a moral sentiment, but when perceived, none appreciate it more highly. A murmur of applause ran through the assembly, followed by a simultaneous clap, and a shout, which was taken up by the multitude without, and died away in the distance. They hailed the scene before them; they saw in it not so much the Queen and the Philanthropist, as royalty offering its meed of approval at the shrine of mercy and good works.

The Christian observer who has thus far followed the career of Mrs. Fry, will read in this day's history an instructive lesson. The humiliation of the morning contrasted with the exaltation of the latter part of the day. Even her humility might have suffered, her well-poised mind have lost something of its equilibrium, had not the balance been thus held, and impressions so opposite been permitted, one to counteract the other—for how striking the lesson taught of the vanity of human applause, or human disapprobation—the futility of labouring to serve any other Master than Him, who reads the hearts and knows the thoughts of the children of men.

To Lady Harcourt, soon after the Queen's visit to the Mansion House, Mrs. Fry addressed this letter:—

My dear Lady Harcourt,

Would it be asking too much of thee to let me know particularly how the Queen is after her great exertions the other day? I rejoice to think what a sweet impression her visit appears to have made upon the people. I feel very unworthy of the kind attention that she paid me, and my heart is warmed with the desire that a blessing may attend her, and her family, in time and in Eternity. Our poor dear King has often had my prayers —may the Lord be his "Everlasting light, and his God his Glory." I regretted that the favour done me by the Queen was mentioned in the public papers, and more particularly from political reasons that I was said to be leaning on Alderman W———'s arm. I had much rather, my dear Lady Harcourt, I had been mentioned as being in thy company, and I hope prudence influences the wish rather than pride, as I believe I feel for the cause' sake; it requires great care who I make my prominent friends. I think the fact should be contradicted by those who knew it to be false, but not in the public prints. I can assure thee, gratified as I could not but feel in the kind attentions that I received that day from the Royal Family, and from thyself; that I felt much too low at heart, and too much grieved at the misunderstanding with Lord Sidmouth, to be capable of much pleasure, as he is one that I have really esteemed, and what is more, I should think few had been to him so faithful as a friend. I have pleaded his cause privately and publicly, when I have heard anything said against him. From my peculiar situation, I have had it in my power with numbers of people, to strengthen his reputation as to his having much mercy mixed with his views of justice. I think he would pity me, if he knew what I have suffered day and night—for it is my principle, and I trust I may say practice, to hurt no one, not even the lowest; I could not rest if I pained my menial servant, therefore, canst thou wonder that this misunderstanding has deeply wounded me? I hope that it will be in my power once more to obtain his regard and confidence. Some day when perfectly agreeable to thee, I will call upon thee to represent some further particulars respecting our little Association. I remain, my dear Lady Harcourt, with much regard and respect,

Thy obliged,
ELIZABETH FRY.

The answer to this letter does not exist; but one of a later date, conveys an interesting account of the last illness of Queen Charlotte, which was at the time attributed to the great fatigue she underwent in her visit to the city, from which she never recovered—and may therefore be suitably introduced here.

COUNTESS HARCOURT TO MRS. FRY.

St. Leonards, *September 7th,* 1818.

"My dear Friend,

"I have just received a letter from Kew, stating the poor Duchess of Gloucester's inability, under her present affliction, to acknowledge your letter: but she has desired I will do it for her, and thank you for the justice you do her, in being sensible of the satisfaction she feels, at the proof, the enclosed letter gives, of the infinite good that is done by the system, you have established by your meritorious exertions. Indeed, my good friend, the letter from the poor woman, must have been a great gratification to you, it makes one feel with still more regret, that the same system is not followed in the country, and that the men have no such blessed advantage. Surely the time will come, when the eyes of Government will be open to the necessity of doing something for the male convicts. But it is painful to think any time should be lost, as every soul is of equal value, and perhaps they are perishing daily for want of such assistance as might save them.

"We are at present in great anxiety on account of the poor Queen, and look forward with constant apprehension to the last fatal account. I wish she had had the advantage of knowing you earlier and more intimately. But I believe her opinions on religious subjects, are what you would highly approve, and Mrs. Bendorff who never leaves her, reads and prays with her constantly, and has done so, at all periods. The conduct of the two Princesses, is most exemplary, but I much fear Princess Augusta's health is declining, and her nerves are very much shook. If the Duke of Gloucester had not kindly suffered the Duchess to remain, and share this painful duty with Princess Augusta, she must have sunk under it. Princess Sophia is also very ill, at Windsor, from her extreme anxiety. The distressed state of the Royal Family, should prove that there are none of those circumstances, that are called advantages, that can even alleviate, much less exempt the possessors from the misfortunes common to mortality. The lesson is a useful one, and so is the patience and resignation with which the Queen bears her sufferings; and her family bear their sorrows. I am told the Queen shows a particular gentleness and gratitude to all around her, making no complaints, even when in agonies of pain. Her strength of constitution which is very great, is probably the cause of the protraction of her sufferings, and the period may still be prolonged some days, or it may terminate in a moment.

"I hope whenever you have it in your power, you will let us have the pleasure of seeing you at St. Leonards, it would give me great satisfaction, and I would contrive that my good friend Dr. Pope, should meet you if possible; but I hope if ever you are so good as to come, you will let me know, lest I should be absent; and it would gratify me also to see those sweet girls, who I met in your house. Since I wrote the above, I hear the Queen's sufferings have been less, the last two days. I earnestly hope that it may please God to make her latter end more easy, than she has been for some time past. I believe she has not been able to go to bed for near a week, but has passed the night in her chair. With my best wishes for your health, and that of your family, I beg to assure you that I am, my dear Madam,

"Your sincere friend,
"And affectionate Servant,
"MARY HARCOURT."

A fresh object of interest now opened upon the attention of the Ladies' Newgate Association. The removal of the female convicts for transportation: and the circumstances under which those whom they so anxiously desired to benefit, were to pass the long and dreary months of confinement on ship-board.

It was a practice amongst the female transports to riot, previous to their departure from Newgate, breaking windows, furniture, or whatever came within their reach. They were generally conveyed from the prison to the water side in open waggons, went off shouting amidst assembled crowds, and were noisy and disorderly on the road and in the boats. Mrs. Fry prevailed on the Governor to consent to their being moved in hackney coaches. She then promised the women, if they would be quiet and orderly, that she and other ladies would accompany them to Deptford, and see them on board; accordingly when the time came, no disturbance took place; the women in hackney coaches, with turnkeys in attendance, formed a procession, which was closed by her carriage, and the women behaved well upon the road. When on board the ship, the ladies were distressed to see so many women and children herded together below deck. They were to be divided into messes of six each, and as each woman must of necessity associate the most with those of her own mess, it seemed to be a good opportunity to class and number them. This was no sooner proposed, than accepted by all concerned in the arrangement; they were divided into classes of twelve, including the monitor, chosen from the number by the women themselves. As far as possible, those whose ages or criminality were similar were placed together, each class contained two messes. The superintendence thus became as complete, as the nature of the case would permit. There were one hundred and twenty-eight convicts, besides their unhappy children.

Employment and instruction were still wanting; the women complained of having nothing to do. To procure work for a hundred and twenty-eight persons, during so long a voyage, appeared to be a hopeless endeavour; and even if it could be obtained from Government or individuals, that it would be useless to give it to them, with no responsible person to take charge either of its execution or appropriation. The ladies were told, that patchwork and fancywork found a ready sale in New South Wales. They accordingly made it known that they required little pieces of coloured cotton, for this purpose; and in a few days, enough were sent from the different Manchester houses in London, fully to supply them with work, aided by some knitting. The time and ingenuity required in patchwork, rendered it a particularly suitable occupation; and as the convicts were to have the things when done, to sell for their own profit on arrival, it was evidently their interest to turn their skill to the best account. By this means, another important good was effected; for at that time, no factory or barrack of any description existed, for the reception of the women when landed in the colony; not so much as a hut in which they could take refuge, so that they were literally driven to vice, or left to lie in the streets. The proceeds of their industry on board ship, though small, would enable such as desired it, to obtain shelter until engaged as servants, or until they could find some respectable means of subsistence. A fact that occurred the following year, in the Wellington female convict ship, showed the correctness of this opinion, and how well patchwork had answered the intended purpose, for when that ship touched at Rio de Janeiro, the quilts made by the women were there sold for a guinea each. Bibles, prayer-books, and religious tracts, were placed under the care of each monitor, for the use of her class; arrangements were also made, that those who could not read and wished to learn, should have the opportunity of doing so.

But though some provision was thus made for the necessities of the women, the poor children were still in misery and ignorance, fourteen of them were of an age to receive instruction; with some difficulty, a small space towards the after part of the vessel was set apart for a school, there, during the greater part of the day, the children were taught to read, knit, and sew; one of the convicts undertook to be school-mistress, for whom a reward was placed in the hands of the Captain, provided she persevered in her duties to the end of the voyage. During the five weeks that the ship lay in the river, some of the ladies engaged in the prison work, devoted much of their time to making these arrangements. The expense of £72 10*s.* was incurred in working materials, aprons for the women, and additional clothing for the most destitute. The good effects of these regulations were speedily seen, but none were sanguine as to their continuing in force after the ship had fairly put to sea, and there would be no longer any stimulus or inducement to persevere. The Captain, a very respectable man, died suddenly at Calcutta, on the voyage home, which prevented its being ascertained with certainty, how long, or to what extent the plans were beneficial. The only person who could give or enforce an order, was the surgeon-superintendent, appointed by Government to the care of the women. In this instance, the appointment had fallen on a man, who did not take the least interest in the moral organisation of the convict-ship. The last time that Mrs. Fry was on board the Maria, whilst she lay at Deptford, was one of those solemn and interesting occasions that leave a lasting impression on the minds of those who witness them. There was great uncertainty whether the poor convicts would see their benefactress again. She stood at the door of the cabin, attended by her friends and the Captain; the women on the quarter-deck facing them. The sailors anxious to see what was going on, clambered into the rigging, upon the capstan, or mingled in the outskirts of the group. The silence was profound—when Mrs. Fry opened her bible, and in a clear audible voice read a portion from it. The crews of the other vessels in the tier, attracted by the novelty of the scene, leant over the ships on either side, and listened apparently with great attention; she closed the bible, and after a short pause, knelt down on the deck, and implored a blessing on this work of Christian charity from that God, who though one may sow and another water, can alone give the increase. Many of the women wept bitterly, all seemed touched; when she left the ship they followed her with their eyes and their blessings, until her boat having passed within another tier of vessels, they could see her no more.

Plashet, Seventh Month, 1st.—Since I last wrote, much as happened to me; some things have occurred of an important nature. My prison engagements have gone on well, and many have flocked after me, may I not say of almost all descriptions, from the greatest to the least; and we have had some remarkably favoured times together in the prison. The Yearly Meeting was a very interesting one to me, and also encouraging. I felt the unity of Friends a comfort and support. I had to go into the Men's Meeting, which was a deep trial of faith, but it appeared called for at my hand, and peace attended giving up to it. The unity the women expressed at my going, and the good reception I found amongst the men were comforting to me, but it was a close, very close, exercise. Although I have had much support from many of my fellow-mortals, and so much unity expressed with me both in and out of our Society—yet I believe many Friends have great fears for me and mine; and some not Friends, do not scruple to spread evil reports, as if vanity or political motives led me to neglect a large family. I desire patiently to bear it all, but the very critical view that is taken of my beloved children, grieves me much.

8*th.*—My heart is too full to express much ; yesterday I had a very interesting day at Newgate with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and many other persons of consequence ; much in the cross to myself, I had to express a few words in supplication before them, but the effect was solemn and satisfactory. After this I felt peaceful and comforted; sometimes I think after such times I am disposed to feel as if that day's work was done, and give way to cheerful conversation, without sufficiently waiting for the fresh manifestations of the Spirit, and abiding under the humiliations of the Cross.

It is needful now to revert to the excitement produced in the public mind, when the knowledge of the remarkable transformation effected in Newgate began to be spread abroad. The visits of Mrs. Fry were the theme of conversation in all circles, and the accounts circulated of the interesting and imposing scenes which were to be witnessed there, brought a strange variety of persons to that abode of sorrow. It would be too much to say that all, who then or in after times attended the readings in Newgate, were actuated by high and holy feelings in desiring admittance ; but if a list of the names of the visitors could be published, it would prove how strong was the sympathy felt among the nobly born, and richly endowed with intellectual as well as worldly wealth. A letter, written at this time, is so descriptive of this, that we are grateful to the surviving members of the writer's family, for their concurrence in its insertion here.

Extract of a letter from Lady MACKINTOSH to Mrs. FRY.

"I have had a note from Sir James, in which is the following passage, I cannot resist copying it, in the hope of your pardon for doing so. 'I dined Saturday, June 3rd, at Devonshire House. The company consisted of the Duke of Norfolk, Lords Lansdowne, Lauderdale, Albemarle, Cowper, Hardwicke, Carnarvon, Sefton, Ossulton, Milton, and Duncannon, &c. The subject was Mrs. Fry's exhortation to forty-five female convicts, at which Lord ——— had been present on Friday. He could hardly refrain from tears in speaking of it. He called it the deepest tragedy he had ever witnessed. What she read and expounded to the convicts, with almost miraculous effect, was the 4th chapter to the Ephesians. Coke (of Norfolk) begged me to go with him next Friday; I doubt whether, as that is the day of my motion, I shall be able to go, and whether it be prudent to expose myself to the danger of being too much warmed by the scene, just before a speech in which I shall need all my discretion.'

"As the above extract was only intended for my eye, I am sure you will so consider it. My motive for submitting it to you is twofold; that you may not be ignorant how much your great work of mercy contributes to inspire good feelings, and to supply pure and edifying subjects of conversation at the tables of the most illustrious persons in the country, for rank and talents. And also to know if you will have the kindness to inform me, whether there is not some mistake in the day to which Lord ——— alludes."

Among the visitors were to be found persons, who as friends of humanity came to ascertain the truth of all that they had heard; actuated by the same motives, bishops, clergymen, and other ministers of religion resorted thither. It will be at once seen how the concurring testimony of individuals distinguished in such various ways, must have influenced public opinion in favour of a mode of treatment which, in the course of a few weeks, had struck at the root of the more glaring evils, so lately existing in the principal metropolitan prison of England. Nor can it be doubted that the influx of visitors, objectionable as it must be considered in itself, and injurious as it would be, in a well-ordered prison, was then an important means of spreading knowledge and exciting interest, and thus assisting to prepare the way for the improvements in Prison Discipline subsequently effected. It appears highly probable that the rapidity and ease, with which legislative enactments on these subjects were afterwards carried, may be in part attributed to what had been seen and learnt in Newgate.

On Wednesday, June 3rd, 1818, the Marquis of Lansdowne moved an address to the Prince Regent, on the state of the prisons of the United Kingdom. In his speech, after stating appalling facts as to the increase of crime within the preeding ten years, attributing it to various causes, especially to the vicious and deplorable condition of the prisons themselves, his lordship made this observation in reference to Newgate :—

"It was impossible from the manner in which it was constantly crowded to apply any general system of regulations. There, it was necessary to place several felons in the same cell, and persons guilty of very different descriptions of offences were mixed together. The consequences were such as might be expected, notwithstanding all the efforts of that very meritorious individual, (Mrs. Fry) who had come like the Genius of Good into this scene of misery and vice, and had by her wonderful influence and exertions, produced, in a short time, a most extraordinary reform among the most abandoned class of prisoners. After this great example of humanity and benevolence, he would leave it to their lordships how much good, persons similarly disposed, might effect in other prisons, were the mechanism, if he might use the expression, of those places of confinement better adapted to the purposes of reformation. The institution of the great Penitentiary-house was likely to be attended with great advantages, though he did not approve of all the regulations. That establishment was a great step taken in the important work of reformation. He was aware there were persons who considered all expense of this kind as useless, who thought that all that could be done was to provide for the safe custody of prisoners, and that attempts to reform them were hopeless. Let those who entertain this notion, go and see what had been effected by Mrs. Fry and other benevolent persons in Newgate. The scenes which passed there, would induce them to alter their opinion. There were moments when the hardest hearts could be softened and disposed to reform.

After reading this sentence, delivered in the House of Lords, and published in all the journals of the day, it can astonish no one, to find that admittance into Newgate was sought with eager curiosity by all sorts of persons; to many of whom, admission could not with any propriety have been refused by either magistrates, officers, or ladies. Inconveniences arose from it, but at this juncture of prison reformation, they were infinitely outweighed by its effects in diffusing information and calling attention to the subject.

The ladies of the Committee had at this time effected several minor arrangements to lessen the temptations, and increase the reasonable comforts of the prisoners. In the early part of the year, they took measures to prevent the introduction of an unlimited quantity of beer into the prison. They engaged a submatron or gate-keeper, who assisted in the lodge, and amongst other duties, superintended a little shop, which had been established, as it is quaintly expressed in their minute book, "between gates," where tea, sugar, a little haberdashery and other equally harmless articles were sold to the prisoners. The communication between them and their friends outside the prison being so much restricted, lessened their supplies from that quarter, and the prison allowance being scarcely sufficient, this plan was resorted to, in order to meet their necessities and ensure their portion of the earnings being expended in a proper manner.

Plashet, Seventh Month, 24th.—I have many causes of deep anxiety at this time. What to do with our boys, for the best, has occupied much of my consideration, and at present I see no other way than continuing them at school; but I do not acknowledge too much, if I say that it is the prayer of my heart that a kind Providence may open the way for their going to the best place for them, wherever it may be, and deep is the craving of my spirit, that they may in the end go on well. O Lord! I beseech Thee, whatsoever Thou mayst be pleased to do with them, whether to grant them health or sickness, riches or poverty, long life or short life, oh, for Thy beloved Son's sake, give them not over to the will of their enemies, but establish their goings in Thy paths; put a new song into their mouths, even praises to Thee their God. And seeing, gracious Lord, that in a very marvellous manner, Thou hast been pleased to make a way for Thy child and servant, where she could see no way—how in a wonderful manner Thou restored her in early life, showed Thyself to be on her side, when spiritually her enemies appeared ready to overcome and destroy her, and how also in many and various seasons, "Thou hast made darkness light before her, and crooked paths straight," how Thou hast been pleased to raise her from season to season, from the bed of languishing; how Thou hast temporally cared for her, and answered her prayer, when it appeared likely even that she would be scarcely provided for, how Thou hast helped her in spirit at seasons to do Thy will, to see into the glorious mysteries of Thy kingdom, how Thou hast aided her in her weakness, and enabled her to overcome the extreme fear of man; and to declare Thy doings amongst the people, and to show Thy marvellous works to the children of men, even from princes and prelates, to the poorest, lowest, and most destitute; so as in a remarkable manner to bring to pass what she saw for herself in early life, though as through a glass darkly, which others more clearly saw for her, and had to declare unto her; and seeing gracious Lord, and Almighty God and Saviour, how Thou hast been pleased to deal with Thy unworthy servant, to increase in her even at seasons, mightily and powerfully the knowledge of Thee her God, and Christ Jesus her Lord.——Be pleased to help her in the like precious faith, and preserve her from the many snares of the enemy; let not the spirit of the world or its applause ever again entangle her; nor the reproach of any, not even of the good unduly discourage her, but let her be increasingly Thine own, and at all times, at all seasons, and in every place, by whoever surrounded, give unto Thee the glory due unto Thy name, and worship Thee in the beauty of holiness, and let neither heights, nor depths, life, nor death, nor any other thing, ever separate her from Thy love, but enable her, O Lord! at all times, and at all seasons, and in every place, and by whomsoever surrounded, to glorify Thy great and ever excellent name, with Thy beloved Son Christ Jesus our Lord. And with regard to her beloved family, be unto them, what Thou hast been unto her; even their Guide, and their Guard, their God and their Saviour; and make a way for them, where their poor mother sees no way for them, Amen, says my unworthy soul, cast down but not destroyed, afflicted but not in despair, at times almost comfortless, but not forsaken; at other times abounding in the joy, and blessing of my God.

In August, Mrs. Fry left home to visit Scotland, and the North of England, accompanied by her brother Mr. Joseph John Gurney, Mrs. J. J. Gurney, and one of her own daughters.

Belford, Northumberland, Eighth Month, 25th.—For some time I have looked to attending the General Meeting in Scotland, but it appeared almost impossible, my home-claims being so very strong—indeed the Monthly Meeting before the last, it came with great weight so as to frighten me; but I neither saw outward way for it, nor did I feel the heart made willing; but as I have so often found when there is a real "putting forth," way is made within and without; so it has been now, all my sweet flock are I trust, carefully provided for; Katharine and the three little ones at Earlham, Joseph and Chenda at Runeton, John and William at school, and Rachel with me. My beloved husband means to meet me on my journey; not only outward way has been made, but the willing heart also granted, and I had remarkably sweet peace and relief in being willing to give up to it, such an evidence that I think it remains undoubted in my mind. Friends appeared to feel much unity with me, which was a help. My beloved brother Joseph and sister Jane, joining me has been much cause for humble thankfulness, it has made what would have been very hard to flesh and blood comparatively sweet and easy; we are a sweet united band in spirit and in nature; Joseph a very great help in the ministry. I think he is, and will yet be more abundantly an instrument of honour in his Master's hand. We have sat four Meetings, visited several families of Friends, and inspected many prisons, which is one of our objects. In our religious services, our gracious Helper has appeared very near; we have gone on in them with much nearness and unity; we know the blessed truth that as we abide in Christ we are one in Him. I have felt at seasons as leaving all for my Master's sake, and setting out without much of purse or scrip; but how bountifully I am provided for, internally and externally; the Great Shepherd of the sheep has been near to me in spirit, as strength in my weakness, riches in my poverty, and a present helper in the needful time; I may say,

"Are these thy favours day by day,
To me above the rest,
Then let me love Thee more than they,
And try to serve Thee best."

Conflicts have attended, and no doubt will attend me; but I look upon it as an honour, a favour and a blessing, even to suffer in the Lamb's army; if we may but be of the number of his soldiers, who fight the good fight of faith, and are in any degree permitted to promote the cause of truth and righteousness upon earth.

Aberdeen, 29th.—I have felt low upon arriving here; five hundred miles from my beloved husband and children! but a good account of them is cause for thankfulness, still it is a deeply weighty thing, and I have to try my ground again and again. In almost every new place, the language of my spirit is, Why am I here? At this place we find several other Friends, also travelling in the ministry, which makes me feel it the more; but as my coming is not of my own choice, or my own ordering I desire to leave it, and to commit myself, my spirit and body, and all that is dear to me, absent and present, to Christ my Redeemer. We visited the old Barclay seat, at Ury, where our mother's forefathers once lived. How great the change from what it once was!

Stonehaven, Ninth Month, 2nd.—We left Aberdeen this afternoon, having finished our services there, and at Kilmuck, where several Friends reside. Other Friends besides ourselves, being at Aberdeen, certainly tended to increase my exercise, for fear of the ministry not going on well, or by not keeping in our ranks; but I think that we were enabled to do so, and although much passed, yet we had cause for thankfulness, inasmuch as there appeared to be harmonious labour for the advancement of truth, and the spreading thereof. I had to go into the Men's Meeting, and my brother Joseph came into the women's Meeting. I do not know what Friends thought of us, as our exercises are certainly of rather a peculiar nature, so very often bending the knee in prayer; and the nature of our testimonies so much alike, though Joseph appears to me the most highly gifted young minister I ever remember, as to power, wisdom, tongue, and utterance. What an unspeakable cause of thankfulness to have him thus brought forth as a bright and shining light! Our General Meeting at Aberdeen was ended under a feeling of quiet peace; but fears crept in for myself, that I had fallen away a little as to life in the truth, and power in the ministry, for I did not experience that overflowing power which I have sometimes done at such seasons; still gracious help was granted me from season to season. The day after the General Meeting, we went to Kilmuck, about fifteen miles north of Aberdeen, a short time after our arrival there, before I went to Meeting, such a feeling of suffering came over me as I can hardly express, it appeared only nervous, as I was so well in body that I could not attribute it to that, it continued exceedingly upon sitting down in Meeting, and led me into deep strong supplication, that the enemy might by no means deceive us, or cause our ministry to be affected by any thing but the holy anointing. I feared if this awful state had to do with those present, that I should have something very close to express; if only with myself, I considered that it might be a refining trial. However, Joseph knelt down, in the beginning of the Meeting, as well as myself, and afterwards he spoke as if he felt it necessary to warn some to flee from their evil ways, and from the bondage of Satan. This tended to my relief; but it appeared as if I must follow him, and rise with these words, "The sorrows of death compassed me about, the pains of hell gat hold upon me;" then enlarging upon the feeling I had of the power of the enemy, and the absolute need there is to watch, to pray, and to flee unto Christ, as our only and sure refuge and deliverer; I had to show that we might be tried and buffeted by Satan, as a further trial of faith and of patience, but that if we did not yield to him, it would only tend to refinement. After a time I felt greatly relieved, but what seemed remarkable was, that neither Joseph nor I dared leave the Meeting, without once more bowing the knee for these dear Friends; but after all this very deep and remarkable exercise, a solemn silence prevailed, really as if truth had risen into dominion; and after my making some such acknowledgment in testimony, that our low estate had been regarded, that our souls could then magnify the Lord, and our spirits rejoice in God our Saviour, that light had risen in obscurity, and darkness had in measure become as the noon-day, and the encouragement it was for us to run with patience the race that was set before us, &c., the Meeting concluded; and I think upon shaking hands with the Friends, there hardly appeared an eye that had not been weeping amongst those that were grown up. This whole exercise was very remarkable, in a nice little country Meeting, and the external so fair; but afterwards we heard of one or two painful things, one in particular; we visited nearly all the families, were much pleased with some of them; their mode of living truly humble, like our cottagers. The next day we had a Meeting with the few Friends in Aberdeen, where the exercise was not very great, and the flow in the ministry sweet, and I trust powerful. We parted from our beloved old friends, John and Elizabeth Wigham, their children, and children's children, and are now on our way to Edinburgh.

Hawick, 13*th*.—I may thankfully acknowledge being so far upon our way, but our journey through life is a little like a common journey, we may after a day's travelling, lie down and rest, but we have on the morrow to set off again upon our travels: so I find my journey in life, I am not unfrequently permitted to come for a short time to a sweet, quiet resting place; but I find that I soon have to set forth again. I was glad and relieved in leaving Aberdeen, and then a fresh work begun in Edinburgh; on Seventh day, we visited the prisons, accompanied by some gentlemen, the Lord Provost and others. Here we were much interested, we had to dine out with several gentlemen; we went in the morning to Meeting, and were favoured to do well, many were there not Friends; and what were my feelings, in the evening. to find a considerable number of people, quite a Public Meeting. It gave me a great deal of alarm, but we had a good Meeting, and I trust the cause was exalted; people flocked much after us. Our being there was mentioned in the newspapers which accounted for this; but it was to my own feelings a low time. The morning before we came away, about eighteen gentlemen and ladies came to breakfast with us, amongst them Sir George and Lady Grey, good people, whom I have long wished to know: we had, after breakfast, a solemn time. Alexander Cruickshank read, and afterwards I knelt down, and I think we were drawn together in love and unity of spirit. We arrived at Glasgow that evening, and the next day visited the prisons, and formed a Ladies' Committee. We visited some families the next day, and accompanied by several gentlemen, magistrates and others, we again went to the Bridewell and Prison, where I had to start the Committee in their proceedings; it was awful to me, having to bow the knee for a blessing, before so many who were strangers to our ways, but blessed be the Lord, the power of truth appeared to be over all, so that I remembered these words, "rejoice not that the spirits are made subject unto you, but rather rejoice that your names are written in heaven." We had two Meetings, one in the morning for Friends but many others came, and one to my deep humiliation in the evening for the public; awful work as it was, we were favoured to get through well, and to leave Glasgow with clear minds. We have since travelled through great part of Cumberland, attended many Meetings there, some very important ones, and some highly favoured by the Presence and the Power of the Most High; thence to Kendal.

At Liverpool was the next Meeting we attended, it was a large public one, and so it has been in many places. I deeply felt it, I hardly dared to raise my eyes because of the feathers and ribbons before me, however, best help was afforded, to my very great relief and consolation; truth appeared to be in great dominion. After a sweet uniting time with the Benson family, we left Liverpool for Knowsley, the seat of the Earl of Derby, as we had had a pressing invitation from Lady Derby; we were received with the utmost kindness and openness by all this very large household; a palace was now our allotment; a cottage has been so during our journey, my internal feeling was humiliation and self abasement. Yet I rather enjoyed the novelty and cheerfulness of the scene, there were nearly thirty of their family and guests, cordial kindness was shown us; our scruples most particularly attended to, and every effort made to promote our comfort.

Knowsley, 24th.—Here we are, all the family about to be collected for a religious opportunity; Lord, be pleased to be with us, to own us by Thy life-giving presence, and help us by Thy Spirit, for it is a very awful time. Make us, Thy unworthy children, fit for Thy service, and touch our lips as with a live coal from Thy altar, for we are unworthy to take Thy great and ever-excellent name into our mouths; Thou Lord only knowest the state of Thy unworthy servant, help her infirmities, blot out her transgressions, and enable her to show forth thy praise, if consistent with Thy Holy Will, that all may be more abundantly converted unto Thee, and brought into the knowledge of Thy beloved Son Christ Jesus our Lord.

Sheffield, 26th.—After writing the above, I was summoned into the dining-room where the family were assembled—I should think in all nearly a hundred. My beloved brother read the third chapter of John; there was then a solemn pause, and I found it my place to kneel down, praying for a blessing upon the house and family, and giving thanks for the mercies bestowed upon them; particularly in the time of their affliction, in having been supported by the everlasting Arm; and prayer arose for its being sanctified to them. The large party appeared humbled and tendered—then dearest Joseph arose, and was greatly helped by the power of the Spirit—I followed him with a few words. Many of the party were in tears; some exceedingly affected. Joseph then knelt down, greatly helped; the service principally fell upon him, dear fellow. After he rose, I reminded them of the words of our blessed Redeemer, "that whosoever giveth a disciple a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, shall receive a disciple's reward;" this, I said, I humbly trusted would be their case. I also alluded to their servants' kindness in the same way. Thus ended this memorable occasion. It was like what we read of in Friends' journals formerly, when the power appeared to be over all in a very extraordinary manner. I remember in John Richardson's journal some such an account. So it is,—and this is not and cannot be our own work, surely it is the Lord's doing, and marvellous in our eyes!

Earlham, Tenth Month, 6th.—Once more arrived at this interesting place, that has so long been a home to me. I will go back to where I left off. Our visit to Sheffield was an important one; I had so deeply to feel for a beloved Friend, who has long been a mother in Israel, under heavy family affliction. Oh, what I felt for her in Meeting, and out of Meeting, I cannot describe; my spirit was in strong intercession for her preservation and support, under these deep tribulations. We had a favoured Meeting in the morning, though I had indeed to go through the depths before I ascended the heights. By the desire of my dear brother, we had a public Meeting in the evening, which was well got through, but not without suffering. We then proceeded to York; I can hardly express how deeply I felt entering that Quarterly Meeting; "fears gat hold upon me," still hope arose underneath, that this end of our services as to our northern journey would crown all—and so I think it proved—not only from service to service, and from Meeting to Meeting, did the Holy blessed anointing Power appear to be abundantly poured forth upon the speakers, but upon the hearers also; that where I feared most I found least to fear; such unity of spirit, such a flow of love and of life, as quite refreshed, encouraged, and comforted my soul. I was much rejoiced to find so many fathers and mothers amongst them. "Bless the Lord, O my soul! all that is within me bless His holy name."—"Praise and exalt Him, above all for ever," might then have been the language of my soul.

We travelled on to Lynn, and there my brother left me to remain over First day, with his dear Jane. At the Meetings there, I felt as if I had to minister almost, without the power, and yet that I must yield to the service; but I was so fearful and weak, at both Meetings, that truth did not appear in dominion, perhaps I found the change after York, and I missed my dear brother Joseph. I often minister as if in bonds, this is very humbling, so many fears, so many doubts arising; this was the case in nearly all my services during the day. My Aunt Birkbeck truly sweet and kind. Here I had the comfort and delight yesterday, of meeting six of my tenderly beloved children, and many of my dearest sisters and brothers. How thankful do I feel for their having been kept in my absence, it would have been such a trial to my weak faith, if they had not gone on well. Oh! may I prove my gratitude by my love.

The principal object of this journey was connected with the concerns of the Society of Friends; but Elizabeth Fry and Joseph John Gurney also made a point of visiting the prisons of the towns through which they passed. As the Notes* made on this occasion were published the following year, by Mr. Gurney, it is unnecessary to do more in the present work than to record some of the most striking scenes they met with, disgraceful in their nature and injurious in their effects; and to introduce his sketch of the general results of the whole. They felt themselves much indebted to the magistrates of the towns and districts through which they passed, for the kindness and openness with which they received them. They rejoiced that the views entertained by these gentlemen were correct and benevolent; few evincing any disposition to adhere to the old system, fraught as they had found it to be with accumulated errors and evil consequences. In many places, the expediency of erecting prisons on an improved plan was under consideration; and in some they were already in course of building.

---

* Notes on a Visit made to some of the Prisons in Scotland and the North of England, in company with Elizabeth Fry. By Joseph John Gurney. London: Printed for Archibald Constable and Co., Edinburgh, 1819.

Durham old Gaol and House of Correction; and the Gaols at Haddington, Aberdeen, Glasgow, and Carlisle, as well as many in the smaller Borough towns, were of the worst possible description. Of Dunbar Gaol and Haddington visited August 26th, and Kinghorn in Fifeshire the next day, Mr. Gurney writes:—

"Dunbar Gaol.

"You ascend a narrow dirty staircase, into two small rooms, of which this little Borough gaol consists. These two rooms, one of which is for debtors, the other for criminals of all descriptions, are kept in a state of extreme filth, and are severally furnished with a little straw, and a tub for every dirty purpose. There is no court nor airing ground in the prison, nor any other accommodation whatever. Happily there was no one confined here.

"Haddington County Gaol.

"Very different was the case with this gaol; for in consequence chiefly of a riot, which had taken place in the neighbourhood, we found it crowded with prisoners; and seldom indeed have we seen any poor creatures so wretchedly circumstanced. That part of the prison which is allotted to criminals and vagrants consists of four cells on the ground floor, measuring respectively thirteen feet by eight, and one on the second story, measuring eleven feet by seven. It is difficult to conceive any thing more entirely miserable than these cells. Very dark—excessively dirty—clay floors—no fire-places—straw in one corner for a bed, with perhaps a single rug—a tub in each of them, the receptacle of all filth. In one of the cells, we observed three men who had been engaged in the riot; in another, a woman (the wife of one of them) and two boys; in the third, two more men and a woman (the wife of one of them). We understood that one of these women was a prisoner, the other a visitor; but have since been informed by the jailor, that they were both visitors. None of the prisoners were ironed, except one man who had attempted to break prison. This unfortunate person was fastened to a long iron bar. His legs, being passed through rings attached to the bar were kept about two feet asunder, which distance might be increased to three feet and a half, at the pleasure of the jailor. This cruel and shameful mode of confinement, which prevented the man from undressing, or from resting with any comfort to himself during the night, and which by the constant separation of the legs, amounted to positive torture, had been continued for several days. We earnestly entreated for his deliverance, but apparently without effect.

"Another scene of still greater barbarity was in reserve for us. In the fourth cell—a cell as miserable as the rest—was a young man in a state of lunacy. No one knew who he was, or whence he came; but having had the misfortune to frequent the premises of some gentleman in the neighbourhood, and to injure his garden seats, and being considered mischievous, he was consigned to this abominable dungeon, where he had been, at the date of our visit, in unvaried solitary confinement, for eighteen months.

"No clothing is allowed in this prison; no medical man attends it; no chaplain visits it. Its miserable inmates never leave their cells, for there is no change of rooms, and no airing-ground; nor can they be under any one's constant and immediate care, for the jailor lives away from the prison. They can, however, keep up an almost unchecked communication with the people of the town, as the small grated windows of their cells look upon the streets. We observed a lad on the outside of the prison, seated on a ledge of the wall, in close conversation with the three men who had been committed for rioting. The prisoners were at this time, allowed nothing but water, and four pennyworth of bread daily. I have since learned from the jailor, that this was a short allowance, by way of punishment for refractory conduct, and that they usually have eightpence a day. Those who were in the gaol, when we visited it, appeared in a remarkably careless and insensible state of mind. This we could not but attribute, partly, to the hardships and neglect which they here experience.

"I have yet to describe the most objectionable point of this terrible prison, namely, its accommodations for those debtors who are not burgesses. There were at this time three men of that description in the prison: shortly before, there had been five; and at one time, seven. These unhappy persons, innocent as they are of any punishable offence, be they many or be they few, be they healthy or be they sick—are confined day and night, without any change or intermission whatsoever, in a closet containing one small bed, and measuring not quite nine feet square.

"As we passed through Haddingtonshire, we were struck with the richness and fertility of the country, and with the uncommon abundance of the crops which it produces. It is considered one of the wealthiest counties in Scotland. Surely, then, we may indulge the pleasing expectation, that the inhabitants of this county, and especially its very liberal magistrates, will no longer suffer it to continue without such a prison, as will tend to the reformation of offenders; such a one, at any rate, as will not, like their present gaol, violate the common principles of justice and humanity.

"KINGHORN, FIFESHIRE.

"In this little Borough, there is a small prison, now disused; and in a state of great dilapidation. We were informed by the people, who, wondering at our strange curiosity, crowded after us into the building, that in one of the wretched rooms upstairs, had been confined for six years, in miserable solitude, a young Laird, who was in a state of lunacy; and who at length terminated his suffering by swallowing melted lead! The death of this afflicted young man is said to have happened about twenty years ago. I introduce this story, (for the truth of which, though I had no reason to doubt it, I cannot vouch,) for the purpose of once more drawing the attention of the public, to the cruel practice still prevalent in Scotland, of confining deranged persons in prisons."

The following extract from Mr. Gurney's work, well describes the aggregate state of the Scotch prisons.

"There are certain peculiarities in the construction and management of many gaols in Scotland, which, in the first place, deserve a distinct notice. They may be shortly enumerated, as follows:—No airing grounds; no change of room; tubs in the prisoners' cells for the reception of every kind of filth; black-holes; no religious service; jailors living away from their prisons; consequently an impossibility of any inspection, and an almost total absence of care; free communication through the windows of the cells with the public. The three last mentioned particulars, have an obvious tendency to encourage disorder; the others, as evidently entail a dreadful degree of wretchedness. To the particulars in Scotch gaols, which are productive of unnecessary suffering, may also be added the long iron bar which is fixed in the floor, and through which the legs of the prisoner are fastened by rings. This, as far as we have observed, is the most usual method of chaining, adopted in Scotland, and a more cruel one could not easily have been devised; for it not only keeps the legs of the prisoner constantly apart from each other, but prevents his undressing or going to bed. It is indeed a happy circumstance that so many of the prisons in Scotland are without any inhabitants. Certainly, when any unfortunate person does become the inmate of some of these dreadful abodes, his situation is truly pitiable. He probably finds himself in a damp, dark and filthy cell; it may be, with only straw for his bed; assailed by the most noisome smells; entirely solitary, without any possibility of change, exercise, or relief. If he had been imprudent enough to attempt his escape from his misery, that misery will be doubled by his being chained to the iron bar, or consigned to the yet more terrible dungeon, denominated the black-hole. Amidst all this suffering, no religious instructor visits him, and even his appointed keeper lives entirely out of his reach. Can it be justifiable that any human being, and more especially the untried prisoner, who is innocent in the eye of the law, should be exposed to sufferings so multiplied, and so little alleviated, and for a length of time together?

"There are two points, to which it appears necessary once more to advert, before I leave the subject of 'misery in Scotch prisons;' the first is, the treatment of debtors; the second, that of lunatics.

By the law of Scotland, if a debtor escapes from prison, the jailor, and through the jailor, the magistrate, who issued the warrant, becomes responsible for the debt. It is necessary, of course, that the jailor and the magistrate should protect their own interest; the consequence is, that the Scotch debtor is consigned to the closest and most severe confinement. He has no yard to walk in, no means of taking exercise or changing the air: if there be a yard in the prison, he is probably not allowed to make use of it: he is kept like the vilest criminal, perhaps with numerous companions, in some close, and miserable and fetid apartment, which he is permitted on no occasion to quit, even for a moment. His health is exposed to the most serious injury; and there is actually nothing to alleviate his distress, but the lethargy of a despondent mind. Let it be remembered, that respectable and virtuous persons may frequently be subjected, by circumstances which they cannot control, to all this wretchedness; and let the question then be answered, whether enactments productive of so much unmerited cruelty ought to be any longer tolerated by a civilized and Christian community."

But that which most deeply affected Mrs. Fry, and excited sorrowful recollections, which she retained almost to the close of her life, was the condition of the poor lunatics confined in those prisons. Not the wretched prisoner fastened to the iron bar at Haddington; not those chained to the bedstead at Forfar; nor to the wall of their cells, as at Berwick; nor to a ring on the floor, as at Newcastle, left such a melancholy impression on her mind, as the state of the poor lunatic in the cell at Haddington. But happily, this evil also was in progress of remedy, through the erection of Lunatic Asylums.

The frequent appeals made by Mrs. Fry in behalf of the insane, and the tenderness with which she treated them when she came in personal contact with those afflicted ones, in prisons or other places, proved how powerfully her heart was touched with compassion for that heaviest of human maladies; "the worst of evils" as she once expressed it, "to the individual and those connected with him, except sin."

It was with pleasure the travellers found the Bridewell at Aberdeen, and the House of Correction at Preston, approaching to what was then considered a standard of excellence.

To such persons as were interested in Prison Reform, Mr. Gurney's Book afforded much matter for reflection. Whilst they deplored the evils he described, they rejoiced that they should be brought to light—as the first step towards their being remedied. Not so with those, who, from indifference or neglect, had endured their continuance without at least any availing effort to alter a state of things both impolitic and unchristian. Attempts were made to contradict some of the facts he asserted, but entirely failed.

The beginning of the present century, though marked by strong political feeling and national excitement, presented the same apathy as to questions of Moral Benevolence, which from the time of the Commonwealth had pervaded all ranks and conditions of men. But a new era was approaching—a better day beginning to dawn. Many were prepared to hail any advance towards improvement; and whilst they shrank from alteration for the sake of change, were yet capable of appreciating the fact, that with the progress of civilization, the increase of population, and the altered state of society, institutions adapted to a former day had become inapplicable; and that measures suited to the darker ages would not bear investigation and the increasing light of knowledge. But far beyond these considerations of expediency, was the growing influence of Religion, she raised her voice to proclaim that Reformation, not revenge, is the object of Punishment—to be a "terror to evil doers, and a praise to those who do well;" whilst in the words of her Great Master, she was heard to say, "Neither do I condemn thee, go and sin no more."

Mr. Gurney and Mrs. Fry received many letters after the "Notes" were published—many opinions and suggestions were offered—some objections were raised—but there were individuals, and they were not few in number, nor unimportant in influence, who simply encouraged them in their researches, and expressed warm desires for the eventual success of the cause they espoused. Among these letters, two from the Countess Harcourt, are introduced here.

"My dear and most respected friend,

"It is impossible to have read the excellent publication, giving an account of your tour with Mr. Gurney, without being most anxious to express the satisfaction Lord Harcourt and I received from the work. He read it to me, and there was scarcely a page at which we did not stop, to exclaim our admiration of the justness of the remarks, and our earnest wishes that they might prove the means of ameliorating the system of our prisons. We felt that each word gave conviction to our minds; and the beauty of the style, certainly added to the gratification of reading it. Oh! my good friend, what a blessed tour you have made, and may Heaven reward your wonderful exertions, by making them effectual to the purpose intended.

"I ought not to use the word envy, but I cannot help feeling the great difference between the manner in which your life is spent and my own. You ought indeed to be thankful that it has pleased God 'to put into your mind good desires,' and to have given you health to go through such arduous undertakings. I hope I shall know that your health has not suffered, but I shall not be in London to witness it for some time to come, and I dare not ask you to visit St. Leonard's, at this season of the year. Happy should I be to see you here, if this place proved to be in your road and Mr. Gurney's, at any period, either now, or in summer; and though I shall not be in town immediately, yet I must go there with Lord Harcourt in April, when I shall hope to see you. I shall recommend every friend I have to read your admirable book; and when the Duchess of Gloucester returns to Windsor, I shall entreat her to read it, and to send the Duke (to whom she writes constantly) an account of it; as it may be useful in France as well as in England.

"And now, dear Mrs. Fry, accept, I entreat of you, Lord Harcourt's best wishes and regards, as well as those of

"Your sincere and affectionate friend,

"MARY HARCOURT.

THE COUNTESS HARCOURT TO ONE OF MRS. FRY'S CHILDREN.

"St. Leonard's, *5th of February*, 1819.

"My dear young friend,

"Your letter has given me the greatest concern; that your excellent mother should be so unwell, grieves me to the heart, and that she should be disabled from continuing her useful exertions. But I hope and trust it will please God in his mercy to restore her health, and I beg you will have the goodness to write me an account of her state, after a short period is passed. Pray tell her, that as soon as we had finished reading the beautiful account of her tour, I sent it to the Duke of Gloucester, who is at Paris, hoping that it might be the cause of ameliorating the situation of our fellow-creatures in that yart of the continent of Europe. Benevolence should never be exclusive, and we ought to wish equally well to mankind, in whatever part of the world they may be placed.

"The Duke of Gloucester is in high repute at Paris, and probably has the means of communication with the most philanthropic part of the nation. If I can get a copy down in time, I will send it to the Duchess of Gloucester, who does not leave Brighton till Monday; or perhaps you had better send one by the coach, the moment you receive this, as it may be the means of the Regent reading it, from his great affection for, and opinion of his sister. I told Princess Augusta yesterday, I should send her a copy. Those Princesses will be happy to see dear Mrs.

Fry, whenever she is well enough, but I now fear that cannot happen soon. Pray give my affectionate regards to her,

"And believe me, my dear young friend,
"Yours very sincerely,
"MARY HARCOURT."

After her Scotch journey, Mrs. Fry's return home from Earlham, was hastened by an accident occurring to her husband; but although she found him recovering the effects of it, other anxieties awaited her.

Plashet, Tenth Month, 15*th*.—I have had the comfort of finding my beloved husband mending. My first arrival for a few hours was sorrowful; my dearest Kate being seriously ill, but I am thankful to say she soon recovered. My Louisa is now poorly, but I hope not materially so. My prison concerns truly flourishing: surely in that a blessing in a remarkable manner appears to attend me; more apparently, than in some of my home duties. Business pressed very hard upon me; the large family at Mildred's Court, so many to please there, and attend to—the various accounts—the dear children and their education,—my husband poorly—the church—the poor—my poor infirm aunt whom I have undertaken to care for—my public business, and my numerous friends and correspondents. I have desired to keep my mind quiet and lifted up to my Redeemer, as my Helper and my Guide; inwardly, I have felt helped, even He whom my soul loves has been near, but I have also had some perplexity and discouragement, thinking that some of those very dear, as well as others, are almost jealous over me, and ready to mistrust my various callings; and are open both to see my children's weaknesses, and almost to doubt the propriety of my many objects. Such are my thoughts! Indeed I too much feel the pain of not being able to please every one; but this cannot be, and if I only may please my Master, I trust that His servants will not greatly disapprove me. I certainly at times feel pressed almost out of measure; but then I do not think that I have brought myself into all this service, therefore I humbly hope that I and my family may be kept in it. I sometimes wish I had more order in my pursuits, but this appears almost impossible. Oh! for a little help daily and hourly to press forward towards the mark, until the prize be obtained through good report, and evil report through perplexities and cares, joys and sorrows. Thou hast helped in a marvellous way, O Lord! be pleased to continue to help and to be very near thy poor unworthy child and servant, and make a way for her where at seasons she may see no way. Amen.

Plashet, 22nd.—I was thinking this morning, amidst all my business, my many engagements, my numerous cares, and the little time I have for reflection and quiet; what I should do if my dependence was not placed upon the Eternal word of life? which is with me in every place. I could not but feel this an invaluable gift; the Scriptures that testify of it are truly valuable, but though proceeding from it, they are not it. I think it a blessing to feel the operative power of this word of life, and through abundant mercy, it leads me at seasons, sometimes at very low seasons, to feel it my meat and my drink to do the will of my Heavenly Father.

Plashet, 28th.—Entering my public life again is very serious to me, more particularly my readings at Newgate. They are to my feelings too much like making show of a good thing, yet we have so often been favoured in them to the tendering of many hearts, that I believe I must not be hasty in putting an end to them, or hindering people coming to them; it is the desire and prayer of my heart, that way may rightly open about them, and that when engaged in them, I may do what I do heartily unto the Lord, and not unto man, and look not either to the good or evil opinions of men. The prudent fears that the good have for me, try me more than most things, and I find that it calls for Christian forbearance, not to be a little put out by them. I am confident that we often see a Martha-like spirit about spiritual things. I know by myself what it is to be over-busy. O Lord! enable us to keep our ranks in righteousness, and pardon the iniquity of even our holy things, of our omissions and commissions; and be pleased to enable Thy poor unworthy child and servant, to cleave very close to Thee in spirit, and if it should please Thee, that she should again be brought forth even as a spectacle among the people, Oh! be pleased to keep her from ever hurting or bringing discredit upon Thy ever blessed cause; but enable her to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly before Thee, and so to abide in the light and life of Christ her Saviour and Redeemer, that many may be led to glorify Thee, her Father who art in heaven. Amen, and Amen.

Plashet, Eleventh Month, 7th.—This week I have been at seasons tossed with tempest. The death of poor Sir Samuel Romilly, took rather painful hold of me, as such things are apt to do; hardly any thing appears to me so dreadful, as thus taking the work into our own hands, and shortening the precious gift of life; a more awful crime surely cannot be, but it is thought he was deranged from the sorrow of losing his wife. Certainly in times of deep anguish and distress, it calls for all our watchfulness and constant prayer, that our spirits be not overcome within us; for we cannot keep ourselves, but by depending alone upon Him who can keep us, we may humbly trust that we shall be kept. Thou Lord, who searchest the heart, and art touched with a feeling sense of our infirmities, keep us, we pray Thee, not only from blood-guiltiness, but from such a state as would lead to our being overcome by any of the changes that await us here below; that we may indeed know our establishment to be upon the everlasting Rock of Ages, so that nothing may have power greatly to shake us.

Plashet, 17th.—My spirit is brought deeply prostrate within me, my flesh and my heart at seasons feel ready to fail—sorrows have compassed me about. Among other distresses, finding how powerful the enemy is, and how even those I fully believe to be servants of the Most High, give way to what appears to be a gossiping slanderous spirit; so that that which may be imagined by themselves and others to be a spirit of watching over one another for good, degenerates into a spirit of watching over one another for evil, and savours not of that charity which "thinketh no evil," and "rejoiceth not in iniquity"—not going in love to the parties implicated, but expressing their judgment and their fears to others; this I have deeply felt, more particularly as it relates to things said of Ministers, for it is a fearful thing to lessen the weight of the instruments of the Lord, lest their services should also be lessened. Another sorrow just now is, fearing that I have not one child much under the influence of grace, or that appears really bending to the cross, and this is not only serious for themselves, but brings me into many straits. It is difficult to know how in all things to conduct myself towards them, to be neither too strict, nor too much the reverse. Still I have a humble hope that the work of grace is manifest in some of them, and I trust that it will grow and increase. Perhaps, I am hardly tender enough over the temptations of youth, O Lord! make me more so, a better wife and mother, more calculated to bring them all to Christ their Redeemer. As for myself, innumerable fears creep in, I find myself so much more at liberty than many, so little bound by scruples, and so many weak feelings in my heart, that I am ready to fear whether I am not also falling away. Then, what will become of us? Yet sweet hope and strong confidence arise in Him, who has hitherto helped me, and as I do most deeply and most sensibly feel that I have no confidence in the flesh, as far as I know myself, but that my whole confidence, reliance, and hope are on Christ my Redeemer. I cannot, dare not, mistrust. However numerous my temptations, however deep my trials, however great my perplexities, still the everlasting Shepherd of the sheep is able and willing to care for me, to deliver me, and in his love and pity to redeem me. Lord enable me so to hear Thy voice, and to follow Thee, that I may ever be of the number of Thy sheep, and Oh! in Thine own time, visit my dear children by Thy love, Thy grace, and Thy power, that they may serve Thee, that Thou mayst be their God, and that they may be of the number of Thy people; and may an entrance ever be granted us into Thy everlasting kingdom of rest and peace. The 40th and 42nd Psalms spoke comfort to me this morning; I may say they express the language of my spirit at the present time.

CHAPTER XI.

1819—1821. Takes her sons to school—Illness—Journey in consequence—Letters from prisoners—Reply—Return to Plashet, 1819—Letter to her son, William Storrs Fry—Spends the winter in London—Letter to her sons—Letter to Priscilla H. Gurney—Return to Plashet, 1820—Affliction in her family—Female convicts in New South Wales—Letter from the Rev. S. Marsden—Journey into the North of England—Return to London for the winter—Letters to her daughters—Letter to Walter Venning, Esq.—Prisons in St. Petersburg—Letter from John Venning, Esq.—Foreign Prisons—Letter to Priscilla H. Gurney——Death of her sister, Priscilla Gurney—Resettlement at Plashet—1821—Capital punishments—Mackintosh's motion—Buxton's speech—Prison Discipline meeting.

Mildred's Court, First Month, 17th, 1819.—I returned home yesterday from leaving my dearest boys at Darlington. My journey was certainly a favoured and an encouraging one. The situation for my beloved boys appears very safe and desirable. I had abundant kindness and unity shown me, particularly by my dearest sister Rachel. I came home to many troubles and anxieties, also certainly to many comforts and blessings; but ah! gracious Lord, be pleased to conduct me safely through the difficulties that surround me, and give neither me nor mine over to the will of our enemies.

Second Month, 7th.—I am confined almost to my room; a time of not much trial, but at times a little worried and perplexed as to my state. I think that some of the minor trials of life, are in some respects as difficult to bear with a real Christian spirit, as those that may appear greater; for under them we do not so absolutely feel the necessity of the Rock of Ages being our support, but are more apt to lean to outward help, and to look one to another for counsel and comfort. I seldom remember being less able to come at Divine consolation. The Bible is in measure a sealed book to me, and other religious books all flat; outward sources also appear shut up. Not without inward comfort, yet many fears have arisen for myself. Am I separated in heart more from my Lord? Have my public engagements diverted me from the life of self-denial, of daily taking up my cross? If this be the case, I cannot heal myself, I cannot help myself, I cannot bring myself back—therefore, O Lord! Thou who graciously carest for Thy children, and those who through all their unworthiness love Thee, and desire to follow Thee, be pleased to heal my backslidings, to help me, and as far as I have wandered from Thee, to bring me back. It may be well now and then (as I am now) to be removed from nearly all outward means of help or excitement in the religious life—no joining in worship with those whom I love in the truth—no assembling with my family; and even in my private reading and retirement, little or no sensible edification—may it lead me to more entire dependence on the Invisible Arm of Strength, that I may know my Redeemer, even if his face be hidden from me, to be my only Helper, Counsellor and Comforter. Enable me, dearest Lord, to commit myself and my all into Thy keeping; do with us as Thou wilt, only keep us Thine own, and be Thou our help and our strength. Amen.

Plashet Cottage, 13th.—Here I am, surrounded with every thing that this poor body can wish for, for its comfort and indulgence, and I am quite in a state to enjoy my many surrounding comforts, especially the kindness of my beloved friends, of which I feel very unworthy. I hope that the length of my indisposition will not tire them. I am ready to think that perhaps this state of bodily infirmity is permitted for my mental rest—that I may retire a little from the world and its business. I suffer little pain of any kind. I desire quite to leave it in better hands, and to be enabled to turn this time of rest to a good account; so that body, soul, and spirit may be helped by it, and if I should be restored to the active duties of life, may I be better fitted to perform them all heartily, as unto the Lord—and to go forward in His strength. If, on the contrary, long suffering be my prospect, and perhaps even my time shortened here—may it please Infinite Wisdom that none of those things should suffer in which He has seen fit that I should be engaged; but that if consistent with His Holy Will, other instruments may be raised up to carry on these works, and those who are already engaged in them, may have their hands strengthened to labour with fresh diligence; and oh! may the same kind Power that has been with me and done wonders for me in health, be with me and do all for me in sickness and in death.

Mildred's Court, Third Month, 5th.—Fears indeed have compassed me about in this illness. I never remember before, the fear of dying taking so much hold of me; though as far as I know, neither reason nor faith have led me to believe death near. I believe these fears to arise from the nature of my complaint, in great measure; and therefore that it is well to turn from them by innocent and amusing reading, and other things that would divert my attention from myself. It is not well to be influenced in conduct by these fears; for I have experienced, as far as I know, that the Spirit of the Lord shows itself by love, by power, and by a sound mind, rather than by nervous apprehensions. Where the nervous system is weak, no one should be discouraged by dark clouds for a season overshadowing the best things. This is our infirmity, that we often see as through the medium of this frail tabernacle. But without any nervous feelings, I know my state to be a serious one, and when favoured by the clouds being a little dispersed, and a more quiet and cheerful mind, I desire to examine my ownself, to prove my ownself, that if any thing stand between me and my God, it may be removed; for surely I am unfit to come and appear before God! Yet I have a strong confidence, that He who has in so marvellous a manner been with me through this wilderness travel, will be with me even unto the end, and accomplish His own work, by washing my garments and making them white in His blood—and so fitting me for an entrance into His kingdom. Although I feel the consolation in my small measure of having sought to prove my love to Him in my life, yet when I look at the corruption of my heart, my unworthiness and disobedience, my many transgressions, what hope can I have of entering the kingdom, but through the merits of Christ my Redeemer, who is willing and able to save to the very uttermost, those who come unto God by Him, seeing that He ever liveth to make intercession for them. It has been the desire and prayer of my soul for many years, thus to come unto Him, whom indeed I have loved, and that I might fully experience the power of His salvation, both now and for ever. Lord, Thou only knowest my weakness—my temptations—my unworthiness—be pleased to regard me in my low estate, to accomplish that which concerneth me, and in Thine unmerited mercy, not only to sustain me through the conflicts of time, but so wash me in Thine own blood, that an entrance may be granted me into Thy kingdom, "where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest."

Mildred's Court, 10*th*.—I do not know that I have language to express my thankfulness for the relief of having passed the night, and this morning, with some feeling of returning health, though very weak, and greatly shaken. The first night I spent here, after leaving Plashet Cottage, was an awfully trying one, conflicts and fears within, great suffering from great irritation of stomach without; all that could be shaken appeared to be shaken. I could not even pray; I felt I had neither faith nor power, and I dared not call upon the Lord for deliverance in my own will or way, but felt that I must wait until power was given me in my low estate. "I remembered my God on my bed, and was troubled, for He hid His face from me," but this very close conflict did not last long, though it continued in some degree till the next evening, when I was enabled to pray: since then I have taken nourishment, and what is above all, spiritually, I have found near access in inward prayer. "The mountains have skipped like rams, and the little hills like lambs, at the presence of the Mighty God of Jacob." O Lord! be with me, I pray thee, to the end, whatever Thou mayst have in store for me. Amen.

14*th*.—My faith is strong, respecting my dearest children, that in the end they will have in various ways to glorify the God of their fathers, though all may not be led into conspicuous or public services.

24*th*.—I have had another very deep plunge of illness, pain and suffering of body, and much lowness of spirits. The cry of my heart however, once more has been answered. Help and a little strength has been granted, and considerable relief from great faintness and illness, so that I have yet sweet hope and belief that my Redeemer, who has shown Himself on every side, will not give me over to the will of mine enemies, but will more and more arise for my help spiritually and naturally. Oh ! Most gracious Lord, still help me, keep me near to Thyself, send health and cure, when consistent with Thine holy and ever blessed will; and grant Thy poor child, a humble, quiet, and resigned spirit.

Mrs. Fry had now been confined to the house, nearly to her room, for some months; and her long-continued state of suffering and illness, having become a cause of much solicitude to her family, change of air, and gentle travelling were recommended; she accordingly left home, the end of March, for a short journey into Sussex and Kent. She was in so weak a state, as to be taken upon a bed in the carriage; she travelled by easy stages, and passed slowly on from place to place, through Petworth, Arundel, and Worthing, to Brighton, thence through Hastings to Tonbridge Wells, pausing at each place, refreshed and cheered by the change, and the charming country scenes, amongst which she found herself. The travellers arrived in London, in May, after an absence of five weeks.

Petworth, Sussex, Third Month, 30*th*, 1819.—I am so far on my journey, with my beloved husband, Katharine, Chenda, and servants, for my health. I feel comfortable, my spirits very tranquil, and what is more, at seasons I have been permitted to hold something like sweet communion with my Lord.

Brighton, Fourth Month, 8*th*.—I have once more been to Meeting—on First day morning, on Third day, the first meeting of the Quarterly Meeting on Fourth day, and also to the Monthly Meeting. It was sweet and refreshing, once more to assemble with some of the outward church. In abundant mercy, strength was granted in my great weakness, yet once more to show forth the praise of Israel's Shepherd; deep as my late conflicts have been, yet all appears intended renewedly to stimulate and encourage myself as well as others, to run with fresh diligence the race that is set before us. The language of my heart is, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in Him." A wonderful calm has been granted me after a very awful, and to my fearful nature, terrible storm. I have, through unmerited mercy, had such a sweetness and serenity over me, that the cares and sorrows of life have been almost hidden from my view, and I have hardly felt able even to look at them. These are the dealings of a kind Providence to an unworthy child, He has shown His power in casting down and raising up, in wounding and making whole, blessed be His name for ever. And Oh! dearest Lord, whenever Thou mayst be pleased to lay me low again, lift up I beseech Thee a standard against the enemy of my soul, that he overcome me not; and when I cannot help myself, be Thou my help and my strength. And I reverently return Thee thanks, that Thou gracious Lord, hast manifested Thyself to be my deliverer, that Thou hast once more broken my bonds asunder, brought my poor soul out of prison, and not given me over to the will of my enemies; but in Thine abundant mercy, delivered me from my fears, and I humbly trust, established my goings, and put a new song into my mouth, even praises to Thee, my God; Amen, and Amen.

During her stay at Brighton, Mrs. Fry had the gratification of receiving from the female prisoners in Newgate, these letters:—

"Honoured Madam,

"Influenced by gratitude to our general benefactress and friend, we humbly venture to address you. It is with sorrow we say, that we had not the pleasure of seeing you at the accustomed time, which we have been always taught to look for; we mean Friday last. We are fearful that your health was the cause of our being deprived of that heartfelt joy, which your presence always diffuses through the prison; but we hope through the mercies of God, we shall be able personally to return you the grateful acknowledgments of our hearts, before we leave our country for ever, for all the past and present favours so benevolently bestowed upon what has been termed, the 'most unfortunate of Society,' until cheered by your benevolence, kindness and charity; and hoping that your health, which is so dear to such a number of unfortunates, will be fully re-established before we go, so that after our departure from our native land, them who are so unfortunate as to fall into the same situation as them who now address you, may enjoy the same blessings both spiritually and temporally that we have done before them; and may our minds be impressed with a due sense of the many comforts we have enjoyed, whilst under your kind protection.

Honoured and worthy Madam, hoping we shall be pardoned for our presumption in addressing you at this time; but our fears of not seeing you before the time of our departure, induces us to entreat your acceptance of our prayers for your restoration to your family; and may the prayers and supplications of the unfortunate prisoners, ascend to heaven for the prolonging of that life, which is so dear to the most wretched of the English nation.

"Honoured Madam, we beg leave to subscribe ourselves with humble respect, your most grateful and devoted,

"The Prisoners of Newgate."

"*Monday, March* 8*th*, 1819."

From some women who had made a disturbance in the prison.

"Honoured Madam,

"With shame and sorrow we once more humbly beg leave to address you, in duty and respect to you, and in justice to the greater number of our fellow-prisoners, who through our misconduct have fallen in the general disgrace which our behaviour has brought upon us all; for which we are sincerely sorry, and entreating our sorrow may be accepted and forgiveness granted, by her, who we look up to as our most respected friend and benevolent benefactress. We are not only called by justice to this submission and acknowledgment of our fault; but by gratitude to you, honoured Madam, and the rest of the worthy ladies who have interested themselves in our behalf. We hope what is past may be forgotten, and through your great goodness, be no hindrance to the great and many blessings, (to use the same language we have on a former occasion,) we have enjoyed since under your kind, shall we dare to say, your maternal love: blessings both spiritual and temporal, which so many unfortunates have enjoyed, and which is at present misused through our misconduct. Entreating you to impute it to our being led away by the passion of the moment, and humbly hoping this acknowledgment may prove successful in restoring us to your good opinion, and contradicting the bad one impressed on the public mind.

"With sincere regret and penitence for what is past, we beg leave to subscribe ourselves, with very humble respect, your very humble servants,

"Signed by eleven women, and witnessed by

"Mary Guy, Matron."

"*Friday, March* 26*th*, 1819, Transport-side, Newgate.

Answer to the two letters from the female prisoners, in Newgate, 1819.

Brighton, *Fourth Month*, 4*th*, 1819.

To the female prisoners in Newgate, more particularly to those who are likely to leave their native land, perhaps never to return to it.

Although it has pleased the Almighty, that for some time I should be separated from you by illness, yet you have often been in my affectionate remembrance, accompanied with anxious desires for your good. I am fully sensible that many of you claim our pity and most tender compassion, that many have been your temptations, many your afflictions, and what we may most pity you for is, that in the time of temptation you have yielded to what is wrong, and so given yourselves over to the will of the enemy of your souls! But mournful as your state is, yet you may have hope, and that abundantly; if you only seek to repent, to return from the error of your ways and live unto God. Remember these words, "Christ came into the world to save sinners," and that "He is able to save to the very uttermost those who come unto God by Him, seeing that He ever liveth to make intercession for them." Therefore, let me entreat you before it is too late, to come unto Christ, to seek Him with your heart, and to submit yourselves unto Him and His righteous law—for He knows all your thoughts and all your desires, and is willing and ready to receive you, to heal your backslidings, and to love you freely. He was said to be the Friend of sinners, and those will indeed find Him their friend, who look to him and obey Him—He will enable such to forsake the evil of their ways, and to do that which is acceptable in His sight. Do you not remember in the parable of the Prodigal Son, that when he was yet *afar off*, the Father saw him, had compassion on him, and even went out to meet him. So I doubt not, you would find it, even some of you who are now afar off from what is good, if you are only willing to return, you would find yourselves met by your Lord, even with great compassion, and He would do more for you than you could ask or think. I feel much love for you, and much desire for your own sakes,, for the sake of others, and for our sakes, who are willing to do what we can to serve you, that you would thus in heart seek the Lord, and prove your love to Him, and your repentance, by your good works and by your orderly conduct. I was much grieved at the little disturbance amongst you the other day, but I was pleased with the letter written me by those who were engaged in it, and I quite forgive them. Let me entreat you whatever trying or even provoking things may happen, to do so no more, for you sadly hurt the cause of poor prisoners by doing so, I may say all over the kingdom; and you thus enable your enemies to say, that our plans of kindness do not answer, and therefore, they will not let others be treated kindly. Before I bid you farewell, I will tell you that I am not without a hope of seeing you before long, even before the poor women go to the Bay, but if I do not, may the blessing of the Lord go with you when on the mighty deeps, and in a strange land. What comfort would a good account of you give us, who are so much interested for you, and in case I should not see you, I have two things particularly to mention to you and guard you against—things, that I believe have brought most of you to this prison. The one is giving way to drinking too much, the other is freedom with men. I find I can most frequently trace the fall of women to these two things, therefore let me beseech you to watch in these respects, and let your modesty and sobriety, appear before all, and that you may grow in these and every other Christian virtue and grace, is the sincere desire and prayer, of your affectionate friend, and sincere well-wisher.

ELIZABETH FRY.

Mildred's Court, Third Month, First day.—I am at home from Meeting, as I felt easy to be here, it being wet, and my cough bad, though still favoured to feel surprisingly better. But as I return to health and life, so do I return to its cares; yesterday brought several mortifying and discouraging things with it, principally as to my public services, my private cares and sorrows I am also more sensible of, from being less occupied by my own suffering and infirmity. In coming out of this illness (for so I appear to be) I am rather awfully struck with the remembrance of how little I appeared to feel either willing or prepared to die; or as to my illness, fully resigned to suffer according to the will of God, so that the whole has been a deeply humbling dispensation. I cannot say I much depended upon my feelings, for I was in so nervous a state that I do not think I saw things through a right or just medium, I should think much more of it, if there had not been a cloud over me about every thing—however, it is awful and serious to be subject when poorly to such nervousness—yet, surely, through all, the Everlasting Arm was underneath, and the Lord was my stay and surety; He will not leave nor forsake me just in the needful time, even in death He will be my help and my strength. The difference of last winter and this has been striking, though I then had my deep conflicts, I was, as it were, marvellously raised up—the holy anointing oil appeared freshly poured forth. How did the righteous compass me about, from the Sovereign, the Princes, and the Princesses, down to the poorest, lowest, and most destitute; how did poor sinners of almost every description seek after me, and cleave to me—What was not said of me? What was not thought of me? may I not say in public and in private, in innumerable publications, &c. This winter the bed of languishing—deep, very deep prostration of soul and body—the enemy coming in at seasons like a flood, sorrows compassing me about, instead of being a helper to others, ready to lean upon all, glad even to be diverted by a child's book. In addition to this, I find the tongue of slander has been ready to attack me. The work that was made so much of before, some try to lessen now. What shall I say to all this—that in my best judgment, in my soundest faith (if I have this faith) it is the Lord's doing, by His permission, and marvellous in my eyes. He raiseth up and casteth down, He woundeth and maketh whole, and though now cast down in myself, my faith is, that He will again raise me up; that even once more the righteous will compass about His unworthy child; that He will not give me over to the will of my enemies, or let me be utterly cast down, but that in deed and in truth I may say, "Great and marvellous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty, just and true are all Thy ways, Thou King of saints." Deeply as my spirit may feel to have been wounded within me, yet the first desire of my heart is, I believe for myself and for all, that we may run with fresh alacrity the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, as the Author and Finisher of our faith, not so much from slavish fear, as from filial love; I long, yea I pant after serving my Master with a perfect heart, the short time of my continuance here.

Plashet, Fifth Month, 7th.—Rather serious symptoms once more come on—What can I say, what can I do? Lord enable me to come unto Thee, that I may be helped spiritually and naturally; be pleased, O Lord! to strengthen me, if the bed of languishing should again be my portion, and lift up the light of Thy countenance upon me, whether in health or sickness.

Sixth Month, 5th.—It is the desire and prayer of my spirit, now that I am decidedly better, that I may be enabled to set and keep my house in order, inwardly and outwardly. Dearest Lord, be pleased to help me by Thy presence and Thy good Spirit.

The return of the family to Plashet, was followed by the restoration of Mrs. Fry's health. During the holidays, all her children were assembled there. Soon after her sons went back to school, she wrote to one of them as follows:—

To William Storrs Fry.

Plashet, *Seventh day Morning.*
Eighth Month, 14th, 1819.

My dearest William,

I anxiously hope that thou art returned with fresh diligence to all thy employments; pray try to be a learned man. I trust that the modern languages will not be neglected by thee, they are so important in the present day, when we have so much intercourse with the Continent. My darling William, how anxiously do I desire your all being happy. I do not think I have language to express my desires for your good, and comfort, in every way; be encouraged, my dear boy, in every thing to do right; remember what is said, "He that cometh to serve the Lord must prepare his soul for temptation." Temptations, we must expect to meet with, and many of them, but the sin is not in being tempted, but in yielding to temptation. I am sorry about your fruit, but have had two cakes made for you instead. Pray, my dearest William, write to me very often, for I feel such a most tender and near interest in you all.

Thy most affectionate and loving mother,
E. Fry.

Ninth Month, 6*th*.—Since I last wrote, I parted from my beloved boys for school, John, William, and Joseph. I felt a good deal in giving them up, but at the same time believing it to be a right thing, I humbly trust that the blessing of the Most High will be with them. My dearest sister Priscilla has been very dangerously ill, raising blood from the lungs, which has brought me into great feeling and conflict. As I mostly find the case in nursing, it has caused me afresh to see my own unworthiness; so little do I feel able to administer spiritual help, so hard is it to my nature, particularly when under discouragement, to wait upon my gift or to give it its free course; but I may thankfully acknowledge, that I appeared to be a great comfort, help, and strength to her, indeed her dependence was so close upon me, that I could not leave the house night or day, for any length of time. Her state appeared to be indeed a bright and a very blessed one; so calm, so gentle, so humble, and so much resigned to live or to die. Since I have left her sick room, sorrow and deep discouragement have been my portion, from the extreme difficulty of doing right towards those most near; it does appear at times impossible for me, but most likely, this arises from want of more watchfulness and more close abiding in the Light and the Life of our Lord. When I exercise a watchful care from seeing the dangers that attend some, it seems to give the greatest pain, and so causes me the deepest discouragement. Still, yesterday, in the great, in the bitter sorrow of my heart, I found in a remarkable manner the power of my Redeemer near, even helping by His own good Spirit and presence. When I felt almost ready to sink—and my footsteps indeed ready to slip—then the Lord held me up. In the first place, after a very little while, from having been deeply wounded, my heart overflowed with love and forgiveness towards the one who had pained me; I felt what would not I do for the individual? and a most anxious desire, if I had missed it, to make it up by every thing in my power. Thus, when I had feared discouragements would have almost overwhelmed my spirit, there was such a calming, blessed, and cheering influence came over my heart, that it was like the sick coming to our Saviour formerly, and being immediately healed; so that I was not even able to mourn over my calamity. It appeared as if the Holy One who inhabiteth Eternity would not give me over to the will of my enemies.

Mildred's Court, Tenth Month, 23rd.—We left Broadstairs last Sixth day after a pleasant time there, and I may thankfully acknowledge, much more strengthened and revived in health, than when we went to it; in short, the air, quiet, and comparative rest, I think have been very useful to me. I have not before mentioned the serious illness of my sister, Eliza Fry, which took us to London for some time. Her life certainly seemed to be in considerable danger; but through great mercy, our prayers appeared to have both been heard and answered, and we have now the comfort of seeing her mending. One day when she had every symptom of bringing up blood again, and we were all in great distress round her bed, I felt called upon (I may say powerfully) to kneel down, and ask for her revival, if consistent with the Divine Will; the prayer appeared to be answered, which is a cause for thankfulness, and an encouragement spiritually; as if the same Almighty ear was yet open to hear our cry. Re-entering our London life is certainly a serious thing. Much as I have to attend to, and very numerous as my calls are, yet I have belived that these words should be my motto, Phil. iv. 6, 7, "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Now, though I may have many trials of faith and of patience, the more I can be without too much carefulness, and cast all my care on my Lord and Redeemer, the better I believe it will be for my body and soul; and the better also for all those with whom I have to do. Dearest Lord, I pray Thee, help me to abide in this state, that I may dwell near to Thee in spirit, and amidst all the perplexities of life, that I may feel Thee to be my Helper, my Comforter, my Guide, and my Counsellor. Amen.

Among other anxieties, Mrs. Fry was often doubtful whether the variety of association, arising from her public engagements, was beneficial to herself and her children.

To her brother, Joseph John Gurney, whose opinion she highly valued, she applied for counsel; his reply exists, and marks the view he took of her peculiar circumstances and calling.

"Earlham, *Sixth day night, Twelfth Month,* 31*st,* 1819.

"My dearest Sister,

"I am so very closely occupied, that I find it by no means easy to snatch half an hour to answer thy letter. My deliberate opinion is, that thy introduction to the great ones of the earth, is in the ordering of Divine Providence; and this decides the question at once—as to thy being endangered by it I think nothing of it. With regard to the dear girls, though it is not exactly what one would have chosen, we must trust that it is for the best; if they are but kept humble, knowledge will not do them harm."

To her Sons.

Mildred's Court, *First Month,* 19*th,* 1820.

My dearest John, William and Joseph,

I am sorry that I have not written to you before, to tell you how much I rejoice in your father's excellent account of you. I believe no words can express the deep interest I take in your welfare, and how pleasant it is to me to have such good accounts of your conduct and learning. I cannot help hoping that my sons will be my comfort, and may I not say by their goodness and learning, that they may become my glory. My London life is now a very busy one, it is almost like living in a market or a fair; only that I have not merchandize to sell. We see a great variety of company, principally people who are interesting and occupied by subjects of importance. We lately had a gentleman, an East Indian Missionary, who told us many particulars about the poor Indians: I think in one province, about seven hundred poor widows burn themselves every year, when their husbands die. We expect soon to see the Persian Ambassador, and I mean to give you an account of him. It is now two o'clock, and I have been trying to write you a nice long letter ever since a little after ten; and now I am so tired with the numerous people, that have been here, &c, &c., that I fear I cannot finish it. I much enjoy long letters from you, telling me every particular about yourselves; I like having your poetry. Believe me your nearly attached mother.

E. FRY.

TO HER COUSIN, PRISCILLA HANNAH GURNEY.

Mildred's Court, *Second Month, 23rd,* 1820.

My very dear Cousin,

I have for some time past wished to write to thee, but it is very seldom that I can get any quiet opportunity. I wish much to hear particulars of thee; I feel that confidence in our near tie to each other, that I believe communication is not necessary to keep it up, but I cannot help sometimes regretting that I have not more opportunity of opening my heart to one, whom I feel so particularly near and dear to me, and who I am sure so tenderly sympathizes in all my sorrows, and joys also. I have been favoured with health this winter, except being at times a little overdone, and having some cough. My engagements, as usual, are very numerous. I have, from being on a committee of our Quarterly Meeting visited some of our Monthly Meetings, but

I have had no other engagements of that sort. Our prisons continue to prosper, and Newgate goes on well; it does not require much of my time, though the many things it introduces me into, occupy me a good deal. And now for my beloved family; I think that they are going on much the same as when thou left us; I long to see more of the advancement of the blessed Truth amongst us, but I still hope, that that day will come. I anxiously desire to be enabled to do my part, and to walk before my household with a perfect heart, but this is a great attainment, almost too much for so weak and unworthy a person to look for; my sweet little ones go on charmingly. We have good accounts of our boys, this is a great comfort for us. I have a little favour to ask of thee, the children and myself are collecting English shells, and as I know my aunt made so fine a collection, we want to know what is the best book for us to procure to direct us in our search, and where, and from what coast, we are most likely to procure the finest; we have written to know whether we cannot buy some in Devonshire. I think this such a good object for the children, and nice amusement for us all in London, where we have not the garden and flowers to enjoy, that I endeavour to cultivate it. My dearest husband is now by me, and desires his love. I hope thy reply to this will be as full of thy concerns as this is of mine. Believe me, thy nearly attached Cousin.

ELIZABETH FRY.

From this period the entries in her journal are only occasional, frequently at intervals of some months; and then seldom more than her reflections on passing events, with little or no direct information respecting the events themselves. Earnest desires for good, and petitions for Divine assistance, constituting the greater part of them. After the arduous exertions, and varied interests of this winter, it was no small relief to Mrs. Fry to find herself again with her family in the retirement of Plashet; although her enjoyment was soon to be clouded by peculiar and touching family sorrows, in which she could not but bear a large part, both in exertion and tender sympathy.

Plashet House, Fourth Month, 26th.—My time has been so exceedingly occupied as to prevent my writing, but I have gone through a great deal. My dearest brother and sister Buxton being so heavily afflicted, has brought me into very deep conflict, in short almost inexpressible; still, through all, we may acknowledge that we have found the Lord to be gracious, for assuredly He has been very near to help and support. Dearest Lord, we pray Thee, continue to have mercy upon us all; and at this time of great sorrow, to regard us in our low estate, and to increase our faith according to its trial. Amen.

Fifth Month, 3rd.—Hard, very hard, as this trial has been, and is; yet there is abundant cause to bless, praise, and magnify the great and excellent name of our Lord, both for having given these precious children, and then taking them through His redeeming love into His Kingdom of Light, Life, Peace, and Glory. But what a proof, that our hearts must not be set upon any temporal things.

In pursuing her labours at Newgate, Mrs. Fry had gradually learned many particulars of the Penal Colony of New South Wales. She found that in point of fact, all the labours of her coadjutors, and her own; all systems of Prison Discipline; all efforts to reform the offender; were absolutely null and void, and but a wasteful expenditure both of time and money, so long as the female convicts were without shelter, without resource, and without protection, on their arrival in the land of exile. Rations, or a small allowance of provisions, sufficient to maintain life, they certainly had allotted them daily: but a place to sleep in, or the means to obtain one; or necessary clothing for themselves, and when mothers, for their children, they were absolutely without. It was worse than useless; it was only an aggravation of their misery to inculcate morality, and to raise the tone and improve the tastes, of these unhappy ones, and above all to prove to them, that, "without Holiness no man can see the Lord," whilst they were placed in circumstances, where existence could only be maintained, at the price of virtue. Much of this was learned from the prisoners themselves, but every inquiry made upon the subject, confirmed their accounts; still data were required, and more detailed information was wanted, when Mrs. Fry received this letter from the Rev. Samuel Marsden, Chaplain at New South Wales. Some passages are of necessity omitted, from the fearful nature of the details given.

"Parramatta, *February* 23*rd*, 1819.

"Honoured Madam,

"Having learned from the public papers, as well as from my friends in England, the lively interest you have taken in promoting the temporal and eternal welfare of those unhappy females who fall under the sentence of the law; I am induced to address a few lines to you respecting such as visit our distant shores. It may be gratifying to you, madam, to hear that I meet with those wretched exiles, who have shared your attentions, and who mention your maternal care with gratitude and affection. From the measures you have adopted, and the lively interest you have excited in the public feeling, on the behalf of these miserable victims of vice and woe, I now hope the period is not very distant when their miseries will in some degree be alleviated. I have been striving for more than twenty years to obtain for them some relief, but hitherto have done them little good. It has not been in my power to move those in authority, to pay much attention to their wants and miseries. I have often been urged in my own mind, to make an appeal to the British nation, and to lay their case before the public.

"In the year 1807, I returned to Europe. Shortly after my arrival in London, I stated in a memorial to His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, the miserable situation of the female convicts; to His Majesty's Government at the Colonial Office, and to several members of the House of Commons. From the assurances that were then made, that barracks should be built for the accommodation of the female convicts, I entertained no doubt, but that the Government would have given instructions to the Governor to make some provision for them. On my return to the Colony, in 1810, I found things in the same state I left them; five years after my again arriving in the Colony, I took the liberty to speak to the Governor as opportunity offered on the subject in question, and was surprised to learn, that no instructions had been communicated to His Excellency from His Majesty's government, after what had passed between me and those in authority at home, relative to the state of the female convicts; at length I resolved to make an official statement of their miserable situation to the Governor, and if the Governor did not feel himself authorized to build a barrack for them, to transmit my memorial to my friends in England, with his Excellency's answer, as a ground for them to renew my former application to Government for some relief; accordingly I forwarded my memorial, with a copy of the Governor's answer home, to more than one of my friends. I have never been convinced that any instructions were given by His Majesty's Government to provide barracks for the female convicts; on the contrary, my mind is strongly impressed, that instructions were given: if they were not, I can only say, that this was a great omission after the promises that were made. I was not ignorant that the sending home of my letter to the Governor, and his answer, would subject me to censure as well as the displeasure of my superiors. I informed some of my friends in England, as well as in the Colony, that if no attention was paid to the female convicts, I was determined to lay their case before the British nation, and then I was certain, from the moral and religious feeling which pervades all ranks, that redress would be obtained. However, nothing has been done yet, to remedy the evils of which I complain. For the last five-and twenty years, many of the convict women have been driven to vice, to obtain a loaf of bread, or a bed to lie upon. To this day, there never has been a place to put the female convicts in, when they land from the ships. Many of these women have told me with tears, their distress of mind on this account, some would have been glad to have returned to the paths of virtue, if they could have found a hut to live in, without forming improper connexions. Some of these women when they have been brought before me as a magistrate, and I have remonstrated with them, for their crimes, have replied, 'I have no other means of living, I am compelled to give my weekly allowance of provisions for my lodgings, and I must starve, or live in vice.' I was well aware that this statement was correct, and was often at a loss what to answer. It is not only the calamities that these wretched women and their children suffer, that is to be regretted; but the general corruption of morals that such a system establishes in this rising Colony, and the ruin their example spreads through all the settlements. The male convicts in the service of the crown, or in that of individuals, are tempted to rob and plunder continually, to supply the urgent necessities of those women.

"All the female convicts have not run the same lengths in vice. All are not equally hardened in crime. And it is most dreadful that all should alike, on their arrival here, be liable and exposed to the same dangerous temptations, without any remedy.

I fear, madam, I have taken up much of your time, but I wished to prepare the way, if I should at any future period have occasion to solicit your aid. Mrs. B—— who came from Newgate in the Friendship, often mentions your kindness; she lives near me with her husband; they are well, and doing well, and conduct themselves with much propriety, will be useful members of society, and are getting forward very fast in worldly comforts.

"I have the honour to be, Madam,
"Your most obedient humble servant,'
"SAMUEL MARSDEN."

Plashet, Eighth Month.—I may indeed say, dearest Lord, help me in all my difficulties, regard me in my low estate, and let me see the lightings up of the light of Thy countenance on my beloved children. Though I am deeply sensible in bringing to the knowledge of Thyself, Thy ways are not our ways, and that Thou mayst even permit the poor mind to wander in darkness and in unbelief for a season, that it may be more fully prepared to see the beauty of Thy light, to rejoice in the appearance of the day-star from on high, and to feel the excellency of faith; yet if, in Thy tender mercy and compassion, Thou wouldest permit Thy unworthy one to see some fruit of the working of Thy Spirit in her children, that she might still rejoice and be glad in Thee; but above all, Lord strengthen and enable her to cast all her care upon Thee, and to commit herself, and those most near and dear to her, to Thy grace and good keeping. I desire not to forget all Thy benefits, which are many and great, naturally and spiritually; we are all of us favoured with health, still day by day provided for, and some desires spiritually raised in our hearts after Thyself; and I am also thankful that Thy blessing is in so remarkable a manner resting on the prison cause, and on our labours for these poor destitute creatures, that have come under our care. O Lord! be pleased to bless the work of our hands, even in these things establish Thou it, and if consistent with Thy holy will, be pleased to bless the labours of Thy poor child at home, as well as abroad. Amen.

I think before I conclude this journal, I should express amongst my many blessings, how much I am enabled to take pleasure in the various beauties of nature, flowers, shells, &c., and what an entire liberty I feel to enjoy them; I look upon these things as sweet gifts, and the power to enjoy them as a still sweeter. I am often astonished, when my mind is so exceedingly occupied, and my heart so deeply interested, how I can turn with my little children to these objects, and enjoy them with as great a relish as any of them; it is a wholesome recreation, that I fully believe strengthens the mind. I mention it as a renewed proof that the allowable pleasures of life, so far from losing their zest by having the time and mind much devoted to higher objects, are only thereby rendered more delightful.

19*th.*—I have this day been married twenty years; my heart feels much overwhelmed at the remembrance of it—it has been an eventful time. I trust that I have not gone really backwards spiritually, as I think I have in mercy certainly increased in the knowledge of God, and Christ Jesus our Lord; but this has been through much suffering. I doubt my being in so lively a state as ten years ago, when first coming forth in the ministry; but I believe I may say, that I love my Lord above all—as far as I know, far above every natural tie; although in His infinite wisdom and mercy, he has been pleased at times to look upon me with a frowning Providence. If I have lately grown at all, it has been in the root, not in the branch, as there is but little appearance of good, or fruit, as far as I can see. In the course of these twenty years, my abode has often been in the valley of deep humiliation; still the Lord has been my stay, and I may say through all, dealt bountifully with me, assuredly He has raised me up from season to season, enabled me to speak well of His name, and led me to plead the cause of the poor, and those that are in bonds, naturally and spiritually.

Ninth Month, 2nd.—Since writing my last journal, I have had a Minute from my Monthly Meeting, and have been visiting two Essex Monthly Meetings. I have passed through deep exercise and travail of spirit in doing it, but thanks be unto my God, I found help in the needful time, and when least expected, in unmerited mercy, the holy anointing oil was once more freely poured forth upon me, so that I was enabled boldly to declare His doings amongst the people, and to show forth His marvellous works to the children of men. I am to-day likely to set out again—Lord be with us, I pray Thee help us, guide us, strengthen us, uphold us, and comfort us, and enable me to leave all with peace and comfort at home. We are now likely to break up housekeeping here for many months, how and when we shall meet together again in this place, and whether ever—our Lord only knoweth.

4th.—I returned yesterday from finishing visiting the Monthly and Quarterly Meetings in Essex. I was carried through the service to my own surprise, I felt so remarkably low, so unworthy, so unfit, and as if I had little or nothing to communicate to them, but I was marvellously helped from Meeting to Meeting; strength so arose with the occasion, that the fear of man was taken from me, and I was enabled to declare Gospel truths boldly. This is to me wonderful, and unbelievers may say what they will, it must be the Lord's doing, and is marvellous in our eyes—how He strengtheneth them that have no might, and helpeth those that have no power. The peace I felt after the services, for some days seemed to flow like a river, for a time covering all my cares and sorrows, so that I might truly say, "There is even here a rest for the people of God." I am sure from my own experience, there is nothing whatever in this life, that brings the same satisfying, heart-consoling feeling. It is to me a powerful internal evidence of the truth of revealed religion, that it is indeed a substantial truth, not a cunningly devised fable. My sceptical doubting mind, has been convinced of the truth of religion, not by the hearing of the ear, but from what I have really handled, and tasted, and known for myself of the word of life, may I not say the power of God unto salvation? I visited my most dearly beloved brothers and sisters at Earlham, towards whom I feel united by bonds inexpressible. My sweet dear sister, Priscilla, continues very seriously ill, which much melted my heart, but her establishment on Christ the Rock of Ages, consoled us under every sorrow.

The Newgate Association having become established; and three years having tested the success of the plans pursued there, a Corresponding Committee was formed to answer inquiries and communicate information. Ladies' Associations were established in several places, and in others one or two individuals undertook the work of prison visiting; but some degree of classification, employment, and moral influence, were all that their unassisted endeavours could effect. To carry out Mrs. Fry's views, solitude by night, complete classification, unceasing superintendence, compulsory occupation, regular instruction, and religious influence were necessary to give any chance of reformation of character; and to obtain these advantages, larger prisons, embracing more extensive districts, and conducted on a system of strict surveillance were required.

But Newgate had proved that something might be effected under the most unfavourable circumstances. As applications for information became more numerous, and her interest in the subject increased, with her husband and her two elder daughters she undertook a journey, which would include visits to many of the most important prisons in England. They left Plashet in September; Mrs. Fry joined her fellow travellers at Nottingham, they having preceded her to visit Oxford and Blenheim. Her method in visiting prisons was much the same in every instance, though of course modified by circumstances. She had generally letters from official persons, or private friends, to the Visiting Magistrates of the prison she desired to see. There she would go, generally accompanied by the officers of the prison, any magistrates who disposed to accompany her, or private individuals interested in it; frequently ladies would be of the party. She would go from yard to yard, from one ward to another, addressing the most minute inquiries to the jailor or turnkey; and calculating the capabilities of the building for the greatest possible degree of improvement. The result of her observations she almost always stated afterwards, in a letter addressed to those of local authority. Besides this, she endeavoured to form a Committee of Ladies, to visit the female prisoners, or she strove to induce at least one or two to undertake this Christian duty. She convinced the judgment of some—she touched the feelings of others—but seldom failed to bring to her purpose such of her own sex as she had selected, from being, in her opinion, suitable for the undertaking.

Mrs. Fry visited the prisons at Nottingham, Lincoln, Wakefield, Doncaster, Sheffield, Leeds, York, Durham, Newcastle, Carlisle, Lancaster, and Liverpool, besides many others; and in the greater number established Ladies' Committees, for visiting the female prisoners. This journey led to important results, from the increased experience and knowledge it gave her, and also tended to the diffusion of both interest and information on the subject of Prison Discipline. But overburthened as she already was with correspondence, the increase of letter writing which resulted from it, was a serious evil, notwithstanding the valuable assistance she received from the Corresponding Committee of the Ladies' Newgate Association.

Southend, Darlington, Ninth Month, 5th.—I left home, after parting with my sweet Chenda, and dearest little ones, last Sixth day week. I had a quiet peaceful journey by myself, and met my beloved husband and children at Nottingham. We have, generally speaking, been sweetly united, and enjoyed our journey so far very much. I had much weighty service in Nottingham, and established a Ladies' Association for visiting prisoners. Numbers followed me, particularly to Meeting; but I was helped through, finding grace sufficient in time of need. I was called away from Sheffield, to attend the funeral of dear little Jonathan Backhouse, who died rather suddenly—a sweet boy, about eight years old; a great and deep trial to his father and mother; but their Lord has been their stay, and I think I may say, we have had to rejoice together in Him, whose tender mercies are over all His works; indeed the more we see, and the more we know, may we not say, "blessing, and glory, and honour, and power, thanksgiving and praise belongeth to God, and the Lamb for ever and ever," and this in times even of deepest sorrow and privation naturally, when helped by the influence of the Spirit.

Swinton, near Hackfall, Yorkshire, 29th.—We are here staying at a beautiful place, with a brother of Lady Harcourt's. He and his wife, and all the family are exceedingly kind to us; they indeed make too much of us. However much such visits may be to the taste, they always bring me into considerable exercise of mind; in the first place, for fear of not faithfully standing my ground in Christian humility, simplicity, and faithfulness; and in the next, from the fear of not making proper use of such providential openings for promoting the blessed cause of truth and righteousness. O dearest Lord! if Thou callest for any thing at my hands, I pray Thee open my way outwardly, and strengthen me spiritually:—

Extract from a letter to her little children.

Kendal, *Tenth Month*, 21*st*, 1820.

We are now nearly three hundred miles from you. It would make me very sorrowful, did I not know that there is every where the same kind Providence to take care of us, and I hope He will permit us to meet again. We much enjoyed the dear boys' company, and had them with us for a little while by the sea-side. I have a large basket of shells, which I mean to divide amongst our collections when I come home, and now I am trying to make a beautiful collection of spars, which I think will delight you. I mean to give you each one piece. How much surprised I think you would have been, to see the country we have lately passed through. Mountains, covered at the top with clouds and some with snow; then such beautiful lakes and rivers, quite different to ours, running over rocks, and making such a noise; some of them with salmon and trout in them; and then the waterfalls, fine streams flowing from the tops of the mountains, over the rocks, that I think we may hear them miles off. How much I should like to show them to you. I hope some of you may see these wonderful and beautiful sights, and that it will lead you to love Him who made them.

Mildred's Court, Eleventh Month, 5th, First day evening, (alone.)—We returned from our journey on Sixth day evening, a day or two sooner than we expected, from the very serious illness of my beloved sister Fry, who is rather better now. I might say much of what has passed on this journey; having gone through heights and depths; in some instances great help and deliverance, particularly spiritually, but I am at this time more disposed to examine my heart, and try my ways, and also endeavour rightly to look at and feel my present circumstances. I believe, as far as I know my heart, its first desire continues to be to dwell in conformity to the will of God; my soul thirsteth after Him, and His righteousness. I am at times favoured to get so near in spirit to Christ my Redeemer, as to feel his healing virtue cleansing me from sin; giving rest to my at times weary soul, and enabling me to rejoice in Him, and the power of His salvation, also knowing His holy anointing to be poured forth so that I feel as if I could do all things through Him who strengtheneth me; and am enabled to cast aside fear, and declare His word with power, and a heart overflowing with His love towards my fellow-mortals. Then, at other times, I feel much left to myself, whether the cause is my own transgression, I am not quite sure; one thing I know, in the secret of my heart, I feel myself a sinner before my Lord, and I am deeply sensible of corruption. I do not feel exalted by the approbation of men, though being greatly cast down by their disapprobation, leads me to think that I like it. I feel full of love to others, particularly those near me, but I have not towards them that patience and forbearance that I ought to have, and I think I am too easily provoked—not sufficiently long-suffering with their faults. I do not sufficiently remember that the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. I am not willing to speak the truth in love to my neighbours, but too prone to a flattering spirit; being naturally so afraid of man, that it even affects my conduct to my servants, &c., &c. There are many other sins I could state, to which I am very prone, when not under the immediate influence of grace, but I desire, and in some measure endeavour, not to give way to them. Now for my circumstances—my husband and myself have had a very uniting journey; I deeply feel the separations that attach to this place, and desire to make pleasing him one of my first objects. My children are not likely to be much with me this winter, but they in their various situations claim much of my mind and time. My household cares at times a weighty burden, which peculiarly cast me down, and appear as if they must swallow up much of my powers. It is what I have no natural taste or power for, and therefore it is so difficult to me; however, I believe that I feel it unduly, and I desire to be enabled to do my duty in it. My public field of service in the prison cause, affords a wonderful opening for usefulness; if I had time I should have enough to do without attending to almost any thing else; and what is more, the attention paid to this subject brings so much fruit with it. My heart is also very full towards the members of my own Society, and others; that there appears a large field for service, if I could attend to it—but I have (though enjoying so much of the unity of my friends) many deep discouragements and perplexities—particularly in our outward circumstances; and some nearest to me not more decidedly showing their allegiance to their Lord! I truly desire to receive counsel and direction as to what to do, and what to leave undone, and in the simplicity of faith, to cast all my care upon my Lord, and then I may trust that I shall be sustained, and led and kept in the way everlasting. Continue, O Lord! I beseech Thee, to help me by Thy Spirit, to guide me by Thy counsel, to sustain me by Thy power, and above all, to keep me by Thy grace, that the enemy of my soul gain no dominion over me.

Letter to two of her Daughters.

Mildred's Court, *Twelfth Month*, 13*th*, 1820.

It was pleasant to hear of your safe arrival at Earlham, after your journey with your dear uncle. Our London life is so very busy, and one event puts another so much out of mind, that it is difficult to relate exactly how time passes; but I will try to tell you as far as I remember, how we have been engaged. On Seventh day morning, I was much occupied till about one o'clock, in settling accounts. So one more year is passed, and have we wanted any needful thing or indulgence? Afterwards, I visited the eight poor men under sentence of death, their wives, some of their families and friends, and a very affecting time it was. We read together, and appeared to be under the merciful influence of that blessed Spirit, that manifests itself to be from Him who remains to be "Lord God on high, mightier than the noise of many waters." On Third day, I went to Sophia Vansittart, and had a satisfactory interview with her; she is willing to join a Ladies' Committee in Westminster, and to visit Tothill-fields prison, if way can be made in it.

The interest of Elizabeth Fry was not confined to the prisons of her native country. She opened a correspondence with St. Petersburg, through the medium of the late Walter Venning, Esq., who devoted himself to visiting and instructing the prisoners in that city. The Princess Sophia Mestchersky, and other ladies, had formed themselves into a committee with the most happy success, to visit the women confined in the five prisons of that capital. In a letter written by the Princess to Mr. Venning, on the 2nd of August, 1820, she says :—

"Though I acknowledge myself completely unable to write in English, as you wish me to do, for to shew your friends in England the state of our prisons, such as the Ladies' Committee found it to be in the beginning, and such as it is now, eight months after the establishment of the society; yet when you told me it would prove a token of our regard and high esteem for Mrs. Fry and her fellow-labourers, I readily comply with your request, and shall try to overcome all the difficulties which ignorance of your language and the novelty of the subject, present to me. Not I alone, Sir, but all the Ladies of our Committee, expressed a hearty wish that something of our public exertions, and of our efforts to follow the example which that lady gives us, might be communicated to her, as a proof that her labours are blessed from above, and that a spark of that love which animates her generous heart, has also reached our distant country, and influenced many hearts with the same Christian feelings for suffering humanithy. May this prove a comfort to her soul, and a new encouragement for her to continue her labours in that large and important field of usefulness, in which she is called to serve our Lord. We will all endeavour to follow her according to the strength and abilities granted us, looking for help and hoping for success to and from Him, from whom we receive every blessing, and whose strength is made perfect in weakness."

From Elizabeth Fry to the late Walter Venning, Esq., of St. Petersburg.

Respected friend,

Though personally unknown to thee, I am confident, from the interest we both feel in one cause, that thou wilt excuse the liberty I take in writing to thee, to express my heartfelt satisfaction at the interesting and important accounts, thou hast given my brother Hoare of the proceedings of the Gentlemen and Ladies' Prison Associations in Petersburg. Most warmly do I desire their encouragement in this work of charity and utility, for the more I am acquainted with the subject, and the more extensive my observation of the effects of prison discipline is, the more confident I feel of its importance; and, that although the work will be gradual, yet through the Divine blessing, its result will be sure. Not only that many will be stopped in their career of vice, but some truly turned from their evil ways, and the security and comfort of the community at large increased, by our prisons, that have been too generally the nurseries of vice, and scenes of idleness, filth, and debauchery, being so arranged and so attended to, that they become schools where the most reprobate may be instructed in their duty towards their Creator and their fellow-mortals; and where the very habits of their lives may be changed.

It will be found in this, as in every other good work, that some trials and some discouragement will attend it; but the great end in view must induce those engaged in it to persevere, and use increased diligence to overcome them, doing what we do to the Lord, and not unto man, and then we shall do it well.

We continue to have much satisfaction in the results of our efforts in Newgate—good order appears increasingly established, there is much cleanliness amongst our poor women, and some very encouraging proofs of reformation in habit, and what is much more, in heart. This, in a prison so ill arranged, with no classification, except tried from untried, no good inspection, and many other great disadvantages, is more than the most zealous advocates of prison discipline could look for. We find the same favourable result follows the labours of other Ladies' Associations in this kingdom; as I have the pleasure to state that in England, Scotland, and Ireland, many are now established. It may not be unseasonable to observe a few of the regulations that appear most important in maintaining good and orderly habits among female prisoners. In the first place, keeping them as much as possible under the care of women; more particularly having a head matron appointed who is not a prisoner; for desirable as we find it to have monitors under the matron from amongst the women, yet there should be one, at least, who they feel has not broken the laws of her country, and who is an impartial representative of the Ladies' Committee, both by night and day. Monitors from amongst themselves should superintend the different classes; daily giving an account of their conduct to the matron or visitors, which should be entered in a class book. The ladies here find much advantage in meeting once a month, to settle any business that may come before them. They then arrange their attendance for the month; generally two visiting every day except on the First day, (Sunday), when other persons attend to them. After reading the Scriptures, if there be time, the ladies look over the register of the conduct of the women, and attend to their particular department; some to the children and adult schools; others to the accounts, clothing, or different sorts of work; for each has her particular business, by which means order is preserved amongst ourselves. The engagement is thus so much lightened, that hardly any of the Newgate Association attend more than one morning in the week. As part of the women's earnings are allowed them, they have a little money to spend; a shop is therefore provided for them, where they may buy things at a fair market price, which prevents imposition and also communication with those who are out of the prison.

I take the liberty of stating these facts, as some of them may be useful to those who have not quite so much experience as we have had. If at any time the ladies at Petersburg would like to correspond with us, it would give us pleasure to render them any assistance in our power, and we should be much interested to hear of their proceedings. We would gladly send them specimens of the work, but our great want of room in Newgate prevents our bringing it to the perfection we otherwise might do.

I lately had the pleasure of seeing the Duchess of Gloucester, who is our Patroness; she desired me to express how much gratified she was with thy account of what you are doing in Petersburg, and her wish that the ladies may be encouraged in their good work.

It is now more than three years since we first began our operations in Newgate, and how encouraging it is, that the experience of every year should increase our hopes and diminish our fears as to the beneficial result of these exertions. Indeed it is wonderful to observe the effects of kindness and care upon some of these poor forlorn creatures—how it tenders their hearts, and makes them susceptible of impression. I am of opinion, from what I have observed, that there are hardly any amongst them so hard, but that they may be subdued by kindness, gentleness, and love, so as very materially to alter their general conduct. Some of the worst prisoners have, after liberation, done great credit to the care taken of them. In two particular instances, young women who had sunk into almost every depravity and vice, upon being liberated conducted themselves with much propriety, as far as we know, and after long illnesses died peaceful deaths. They were striking instances; through a blessing upon the care taken of them, they in a remarkable manner were turned from Satan unto God, and we humbly trust, through the mercy of Redeeming love, they are received into Glory. Some are settled in service, others we hope are doing well in different situations. We wish it were in our power to attend more to the prisoners upon leaving the prisons, as we think this an important part of the duty of such associations; but in London the numbers are so very great that it is almost out of our power to do it, as we desire, though we endeavour to extend a little care over them.

How delightful it is to hear of the interest that the Emperor, Prince Galitzin, and ladies of such high rank take in the cause of the poor prisoners. May the best of blessings rest upon them, for thus manifesting their care over the destitute of the earth.

We also feel gratefully sensible of their kindness to our friends William Allen and Stephen Grellet. I hope thou wilt let us know before long how you go on. I am much obliged for the book thou kindly sent me; and believe me, with much regard and esteem,

Thy friend,

ELIZABETH FRY.

After the death of Mr. Venning, the correspondence then commenced was long continued with his brother. From this gentleman the following communication has been received, which is so interesting, that Mrs. Fry's original letters to him being inaccessible, can hardly be considered cause of regret.

"I cheerfully comply with your desire to be furnished with some of the most striking and useful points contained in your late beloved mother's correspondence with myself in Russia, relative to the improvement of the Lunatic Asylum in St. Petersburg. I the more readily engage in this duty, because I am persuaded that its publication may, under the Lord's blessing, prove of great service to many such institutions on the Continent, as well as in Great Britain. I wish indeed that I could give you the letters themselves, but unfortunately they are inaccessible to me, being left behind in Russia, together with other important documents, under the care of a friend who is now unable to find them; I have however recorded the substance of them in my journal, so that I shall be able to describe them without much difficulty.

"I begin by stating that her correspondence was invaluable as regarded the treatment and management of both prisoners and insane persons. It was the fruit of her own rich practical experience communicated with touching simplicity, and it produced lasting benefits to those institutions in Russia. In 1827, I informed your dear mother, that I had presented to the Emperor Nicholas, a statement of the defects of the Government Lunatic Asylum, which could only be compared to our own Old Bedlam in London, fifty years since, and that the Dowager Empress had sent for me to the winter palace, when she most kindly, and I may say joyfully, informed me that she and her august son, the Emperor, had visited together this abode of misery, and were convinced of the necessity not only of having a new building, but also of a complete reform in the management of the insane; and, further, that the Emperor had requested her to take it under her own care, and to appoint me the governor of it. I must observe that in the meantime the old asylum was immediately improved, as much as the building allowed, for the introduction of your dear mother's admirable system. Shortly after, I had the pleasure of accompanying the Empress to examine a palace-like house, (Prince Sherbatoff's,) having above two miles of garden, and a fine stream of water running through the grounds, only five miles from St. Petersburg. The next day an order was given to purchase it. I was permitted to send the plan of this immense building to your dear mother for her inspection, and hints for improvement. Two extensive wings were recommended, and subsequently added, for dormitories. The wings cost about £15,000., and in addition to this sum from the government, the Emperor, who was always ready to promote the cause of benevolence, gave himself £3,000 for cast-iron window frames recommended by your dear mother; as the clumsy iron bars which had been used in the old Institution, had induced many a poor inmate, when looking at them, to say with a sigh, 'Sir, prison! prison!' Your dear mother also strongly recommended, that all except the violent lunatics should dine together at a table covered with a cloth, and furnished with plates and spoons.

"The former method of serving out the food was most disgusting. This new plan delighted the Empress, and I soon received an order to meet her at the Asylum. On her arrival, she requested that a table should be covered, and then desired me to go round and invite the inmates to come and dine, sixteen came immediately and sat down; the Empress approached the table, and ordered one of the upper servants to sit at the head of it, and to ask a blessing; when he rose to do this, they all stood up: the soup with small pieces of meat was then regularly served; and as soon as dinner was finished, they all rose up spontaneously, and thanked the Empress for her motherly kindness. I saw the kind Empress was deeply moved, and turning to me she said, 'Mon Cher, this is one of the happiest days of my life.' The next day, the number increased at table, and so it continued increasing. After your dear mother's return from Ireland, where she had been visiting, among other Institutions, the Lunatic Asylums, she wrote me a letter on the great importance of supplying the lunatics with the Scriptures. This letter deserved to be written in letters of gold, I sent it to the Imperial Family, it excited the most pleasing feelings, and marked approbation. The Court Physician, His Excellency Dr. Richl, a most enlightened and devoted philanthropist, came to me for a copy of it. It removed all the difficulty there had been, respecting the giving the Holy Scriptures to the inmates. I was therefore permitted to furnish them with copies, in their various languages. It may be useful to state the result of this measure, which was considered by some, to be a wild and dangerous proceeding; I soon found groups collected together, listening patiently and quietly to one of their number reading the New Testament. Instead of disturbing their minds, it soothed and delighted them. I have witnessed a poor lunatic, a Frenchman, during an interval of returning reason, reading in his bed-room, the New Testament, with tears running down his cheeks; also a Russian priest, a lunatic, collect a number together, while he read to them the Word of God.

"On one occasion, I witnessed a most interesting scene, on entering the Institution, I found a young woman dying, her eyes were closed, and she was apparently breathing her last breath, I ordered one of the servants of the Institution, to read very loud to her, that verse, 'For God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.' Dr. K—— observed, 'Sir, she is almost dead, and it is useless.' On my urging its being done, Lo! to the astonishment of all present, she opened her eyes, and smiled, I said, 'Is it sweet, my dear?' she nodded assent. 'Shall it be read to you again?' a smile and nod of the head followed. She evidently possessed her reason at that moment, and who can trace or limit the operations of the Holy Spirit, on the reading of God's own word even in her circumstances?

"When I received a letter from your mother, I always wrote it out in French, and presented it in that language to the Empress, and when she had read it, it was very encouraging to see with what alacrity she ordered one of her secretaries to translate it into Russian, and then deliver it to me to be conveyed to the Asylum, and entered into the journal there for immediate adoption. I remember, on one occasion, taking a list of rules, at least fourteen in number, and the same day they were confirmed by the Empress; and these rules introduced the following important arrangements, viz.: the treating the inmates, as far as possible, as sane persons, both in conversation and manners towards them—to allow them as much liberty as possible—to engage them daily to take exercise in the open air—to allow them to wear their own clothes, and no uniform prison-dress—also to break up the inhuman system of permitting the promiscuous idle curiosity of the public, so that no one was allowed to see them without permission ; a room on entering the Asylum was prepared for one at a time, on certain days to see their relations. The old cruel system drew forth many angry expressions from the poor lunatics, 'Are we then wild beasts to be gazed at ?'

"The Empress made a present to the Institution of a pianoforte, it had also a hand organ, which pleased exceedingly the poor inmates ; and on one occasion, the Empress, on entering the Asylum, observed that the inmates appeared unusually dull, when she called them near, and played herself on the hand organ an enlivening tune. Another important rule of your mother's was, most strictly to fulfil whatever you promise to any of the inmates, and above all, to exercise patience, gentleness, kindness and love, towards them ; therefore, to be exceedingly careful as to the character of the keepers you appoint. These are some of the pleasing results of your mother's work. The Dowager Empress on one occasion, conversing about your mother, said, 'How much I should like to see that excellent woman Madame Fry in Russia,' and often did I indulge that wish, and what a meeting it would have been between two such devoted philanthropists as your mother and the Dowager Empress, who was daily devoting her time and fortune to doing good, daily visiting in person the various institutions of her own forming, and who once observed to me, 'We must work while we can, the time is short.' In the second volume of the life of that beloved and devoted philanthropist, William Allen, is the lovely character of this extraordinary Princess truly delineated, she possessed the rare secrets of doing acts of love, with love. Although the Empress was in her sixty-ninth year, I had the felicity of accompanying her in no less than eleven of her personal visits to the Lunatic Asylum, say, from the 29th of February, to the 11th of October, 1828. On the 24th of October, thirteen days after, she died, to the deep-felt regret of the whole empire. Rozoff, a young lunatic, as soon as he heard it, burst into tears; she would visit each lunatic when bodily afflicted. and send an easy chair for one, and nicely dressed meat for others, and weekly send from the Palace, Sauterne wine, coffee, tea, sugar, and fruit for their use.

"Among the many striking features in your mother's correspondence, her love to the word of God, and her desire for its general circulation, were very apparent; and evidently that sacred Book was the Fountain whence she herself derived all that strength and grace to carry on her work of faith and labour of love which her Divine Master so richly blessed. As the result of my own observation and experience in foreign countries, I can fully bear witness, relative to very many deeply interesting instances of spiritual good attendant on the free distribution of that inspired word; nor shall I ever forget the solemn charge made by his late Highness Prince Charles Lieven, to the Metropolitan of the Greek Church Seraphin, at the last meeting of the Russian Bible Society, held at the St. Alexander's Monastery in St. Petersburgh. Dr. Paterson, myself, and two or three other members were present, seated on one side of the table, and opposite the dignitaries of the Church, when, after much discussion, the pious Prince said most seriously to the Metropolitan, 'How will you be able to answer at the day of judgment, for the awful conduct of impeding the free circulation of the Scriptures to the people?' and further observed, that there never was a Tzar of Russia, who forbad the Bible to the people; we all perceived that His Eminence was deeply affected. I can most fully corroborate this statement in reference to the Emperors Alexander and Nicholas, both of whom were desirous that the Bible should be freely circulated.

"In December, 1827, when accompanying the Emperor Nicholas through the New Litoffsky Prison, he not only was well pleased in finding every cell fully supplied with the Scriptures, the rich result of his having confirmed the late Emperor Alexander's orders, to give the Scriptures gratis to all the prisoners; but on seeing some Jews in the prison, he said to me, 'I hope you also furnish these poor people with them, that they may become Christians, I pity them.' I witnessed a most touching scene, on the Emperor's entering the Debtor's Room, three old venerable grey-headed men feel on their knees, and cried, 'Father, have mercy on us;' the Emperor, stretched out his hand in the peculiar grandeur of his manner, and said, 'Rise, all your debts are paid, you are at this moment free;' without knowing the amount of the debts, one of which was considerable. I hope this feeble attempt to detail a little of your dear mother's useful work, may be acceptable, leaving you to make what use of it you may think proper.

"I remain, my dear friends,
"Yours most sincerely,
"JOHN VENNING.

"Surrey House, Norwich, *March*, 1847."

St. Petersburg was not the only continental city, with which communication on the subject of ladies visiting prisoners had now been opened.

At Turin, La Marquise de Barol née Colbert was assiduously occupied in this important work. This lady was a Roman Catholic, and had entered upon it, from a sense of duty. The Rev. Francis Cunningham, when travelling through that place, had obtained permission to see the prison, had there become acquainted with her, and opened a correspondence for her with his sister-in-law Mrs. Fry, which was maintained for many years. Letters were also received from Amsterdam, where those interested in the reformation of prisoners, were endeavouring to form a Prison Discipline Society, and Committees to visit the prisoners.

Mildred's Court, First Month, 1st, 1821.—Having poured forth my soul in prayer, and having exhorted my household to live in the love and fear of the Lord, I have obtained some relief upon entering a new year, and finishing another. I opened my Bible at these words, so consonant with the feelings of my heart, I quote them here, "Hear my prayer, and be merciful unto thine inheritance; turn our sorrow into joy, that we may live, O Lord, and praise Thy name."

There are few things more sad than to enter a new year with coming sorrow on the heart, to see an affliction that appears inevitable casting its dark shadow on the future. From 1792, the year of Mrs. Gurney's death, her daughters had continued an unbroken band; but the time was approaching when a breach was to be made amongst them. Priscilla, the youngest of the seven sisters, had been long in declining health, and the rapid increase of consumptive symptoms now foreboded that "the silver cord was to be loosed, and the bowl be broken at the cistern." To Mrs. Fry's nature, the loss of those she loved was peculiarly sorrowful. Had her faith not been proportionably strong, she could hardly have endured the trial. Her sister, Priscilla, having, like herself, become a Friend from conviction, and like herself being involved in the solemn and arduous calling of the ministry, had added another link to their close natural tie; one probably which from their disparity in years, would hardly have existed as it did, but for this circumstance.

Priscilla Gurney was gifted with a singular finish and completeness of character, very gentle, yet very bright, effective, and accurate in all that she undertook; she possessed fine sense, with exquisite taste and tact, and appreciation of the beautiful; she had assiduously cultivated her intellectual powers; she was gifted in the use of the pencil, and excelled in that graceful and feminine but rare accomplishment, skill in useful needlework. In person she was slight, and rather below the middle stature, without regular beauty she was singularly pleasing, and refined in countenance; with a bright complexion and sunny brown hair. Beautifully descriptive are some lines written by a young lady in Ireland, upon becoming acquainted with her, when she visited that island in the character of a minister among Friends.

"Did such a mind beam thro' a homely face,
Beauty were not required to lend a grace,
Did such a face veil an unworthy mind,
Our partial eyes would be to error blind,
Sweet minist'ring spirit, with delight we see,
Inward and outward graces, joined in thee!"

As the Earlham family were led into different dispensations in religion, she believed that Quakerism was the appointed one for herself, and gradually adopting their views and opinions, she became a decided Friend. This was not done hastily; nor did it in the least interfere with the strong bond which bound her to those of her family who had taken a different course; and yet it is easy to understand, especially after she became a minister, what a deep mutual interest must have subsisted between her and her sister Elizabeth Fry. Earlham was her residence with her other unmarried sisters and brothers; nor did it cease to be their home, at the marriage of their brother, Joseph John Gurney, in 1817. His adoption of the principles of Friends had been a great satisfaction and support to her, in her own course. In July, 1814, she thus writes to her sister Elizabeth Fry.

"Earlham.

"I am very comfortably settled again, and feel it a privilege to be at this sweet home. We are quite a cheerful, and I may say often a happy party. Catherine has been such a support and help to us, that I very much feel the comfortable effect of having her again at the head of the family, I sometimes have secretly my low times to pass through, but neither expect nor wish it to be otherwise, and when there is much to feel, I fully believe it is generally best 'not to appear unto men to fast.' Our dearest brother Joseph is truly a strength and help to me."

And again in the autumn of the same year.

"Earlham, *Fourth day.*

"My dearest Betsy,

"As I have many hours to myself just now, I think I may treat myself with writing a little to thee. Except a cough, I am quite well again, and indeed this has been a very slight attack of my old complaint, not sufficient to make confinement necessary, although prudent. It is like having my wings clipt once more, and gives a check to the objects which I had in view, but I think (at least I hope) I have felt this beneficial; every such check ought to teach us submission, and to make us more willing to be, not what we should like or choose, but what is best for us to be. There are few lessons so hard for me to learn as to be nothing—this has been a little my experience the last few days, that of living as a nothing to anybody, and as very poor in myself; but I believe this is peculiarly good for me, for such is our situation here, we have so many excitements, that I may confess to thee, my dearest Betsy, that a true resignation to the cross, and to this state of nothingness in myself is at times very hard to my nature to attain—and yet how needful it is to our safe standing! It is sometimes my earnest desire to be preserved in a willing and humble frame of mind, willing to walk in the way of the cross, in the path of self-denial.

"I am sometimes almost surprised at myself, that I do not more often write intimately to thee; but, perhaps I am increasingly, and sometimes too much inclined to keep silence, and meditate on the various dispensations of Providence towards us. I feel how little there is to say, and I hope we may each more and more simply desire that His will may be done by us, and in us.

"Our intercourse with some of the clergy lately has been very interesting. In this I have had my share, and I really hope I have derived benefit from it; but of course there are limitations with me, and I often feel close exercise and even conflict of mind, which is little known to others. It is sometimes difficult to abstain from what appears such a source of comfort and enjoyment to them; but I have often been permitted to feel a sweet and encouraging degree of unity with those not entirely agreeing with me, and no real peace but in endeavouring to keep stedfast to that way which has appeared right for me. I may write freely to thee, because we can but feel together, and can pretty well understand one another, and our particular situation amongst the different members of the family. Upon the whole, I have felt more encouragement than any thing else, as to the ultimate good of our treading in rather different paths; a sweet hope often prevails that all may work together for our good. In reviewing the last two years of my life, a period in many ways so important to me; I am truly glad that I have been at home, and that my present path has been brought to so close a test as it has. I may say that it is often marvellous to me how the way has been made for me, and how obstructions have been removed. I do not know how it may be with thee, but I have felt this *calling* (for such, I think, we cannot but feel it,) increasingly interesting to me, and increasingly an engagement of deep feeling.

"Thy truly affectionate sister,

"P. GURNEY."

From the Isle of Wight, where she had passed the winter preceding, on account of her declining health, she wrote, in 1820:—

"Thou hast been much in my thoughts lately, my beloved sister, and I can hardly describe to thee, the flow of love and of deep interest which sometimes arises towards thee, there is a certain understanding which I feel with thee, that I can hardly feel in the same way with any other mortal, except, perhaps, it may be with our dearest brother Joseph. We three do, I believe, intimately understand one another's paths—we know one another's conflicts—we have partaken in the same depths—we have been mercifully permitted, according to our different measures (for I feel my measure small indeed compared with thine), to partake of the same kind of spiritual consolations, and of the same deliverance from depths into heights. What a support, and stay, and refreshment, in short, what a mother hast thou been to us both! I must confess my heart often turns towards thee with joy and with thankfulness, though thy path has been strewed with many crosses and many afflictions, yet so in proportion has I firmly believe been the victory, which has been given thee through Christ our Saviour, to the great comfort and encouragement of many, as well as to thy own present, and may we not humbly trust, eternal peace and salvation! how fervently do I desire, that the blessing which has so eminently attended thee, may be in all things thy crown, thy rejoicing—that it may prosper thee in all thy ways!"

The summer of that year, Priscilla Gurney passed at Earlham. As the autumn advanced, she was removed to Cromer Hall, then the abode of her brother-in-law, Mr. Buxton; and with him, and her sister, Mrs. Buxton, she passed the few remaining months of her life, nursed, with the most assiduous care, by her sister Rachel, who had been devoted to her through the latter stages of her prolonged decline.

Cromer Hall, Second Month, 9th.—Here I am, with my dear brother Samuel Gurney, come to visit our dearest sister Priscilla in her declining state. The sweet and peaceful state of her soul is cause for much thankfulness and rejoicing, but the low valley is my own abiding place; and my desire for myself and mine, I may say, my prayer is, O dearest Lord! give us not over to the will of our enemies. My feeling for my dearest brothers and sisters is; in the first place, thanksgiving, particularly for their spiritual state; and secondly, desire that grace may be found sufficient for them, and that no snare of the enemy, however gilded by apparent holiness, may ever hurt or ensnare them; and for my dearest sister Priscilla,—O Lord! Thou who hast been with her, be with her to the end, and in Thine own time burst all her bonds asunder and bring her into the abundant and glorious liberty of Thy children. And also permit Thy unworthy child, through all her trials to acknowledge how truly marvellously Thou hast provided for her, and abundantly loaded her with benefits. Cause us, dearest Lord, to hear, to feel, and to acknowledge Thy loving kindness and Thy tender mercies not only now but for ever. Amen.

Cromer Hall, Third Month, 11th, First day.—Dearest Priscilla said to this effect, that the experience of her illness had greatly confirmed and deepened her in the foundation and principles of Friends, more particularly as it respected the ministry; though she most truly found her boundaries enlarged towards all; and upon my saying thou feelest all one in Christ, "yes," she said, "just so." She expressed how entirely she felt her dependence on the Lord alone, and how little she felt the want of outward ministry, though what came in the life was refreshing and sweet. She yesterday expressed her love for silence, how she found it tended to strengthen body as well as soul, and it was one reason she wished to be alone at night. She also expressed this morning, great desire for the Friends of the family, that they should hold fast their principles.

Extracts of a letter to her daughter Richenda:—

Cromer, *Third Month, 6th.*

Thy dearest aunt Priscilla continues much the same, and I propose staying here for the present. Now dear, I have an afflicting peace of news for thee; poor Thomas P—— died last First day; what a family he has left! I find thy aunt Eliza is much worse. So it is—one is taken and another left. May we who are left make use of our remaining time. Thy sweet aunt Priscilla asked for thee; she is so weak she can hardly speak. I hear most encouraging accounts of thy going on; what a comfort for thy poor mother, now in the time of her sorrow. Continue, my beloved child, to try to please thy Heavenly Father, and then as thou "grows in stature, thou wilt grow in wisdom, and in favour with God and man."

Cromer Hall, *Third Month, 25th,* 1821.

My dear Husband and Rachel,

About nine o'clock this morning the scene closed, and our most tenderly beloved sister went to sleep in Jesus. The conflict of death was long upon her; I think it may be said from Third or Fourth day, to this morning. She has been sensible, evidently so, till late last evening, and her calm, quiet and patient state continued. I think every day her conflict diminished, she had nearly lost the power of speech; but when we were all collected round her last evening, about nine, she was heard by several to say, "Farewell, Farewell," several times. Some one heard her add, "My love is with you," and the last thing we could hear was, "O Lord!" In the morning, she appeared very full of love—put out her hand to several of us—showed much pleasure in your uncle Buxton's being here, and tried to speak to him, but could not be understood—expressed her wish for reading, and from her feeling of love and fondness for the chapter and some signs, we believed she meant the thirteenth of 1 Corinthians, and we had a very sweet animating time together, and afterwards our dear brother Fowell spoke very sweetly to her; and besides the Bible, she appeared to have some satisfaction in hearing other books read, as it has been her habit during her illness, just like mine when ill. She appeared to have finished her work, and have nothing to do but to die; her sweet spirit was quite at liberty to pass away the time in reading, and having I believe no headache, she could bear it, though she confined it to religious books, yet many of these were of an interesting nature; her hymns* interested her much—she liked Samuel Scott's Diary—Piety Promoted—Accounts of the Missions—Watts and How—and many other books of that description. I write thus particularly, because I thought you would wish to hear. I think her object in reading was gentle amusement, and at times edification—she was very particular not to read the Bible except she felt herself in rather a lively state. We were all by her when her prepared spirit left the body, and a sweet time it was; no struggle. After commending her to her Lord, and for His name's sake into glory, my brother Joseph quoted these words—

"One gentle sigh the fetters breaks,
We scarce can say they're gone,
Before the willing spirit takes
Its station near the throne."

Catherine expressed her firm belief that she was one of the blessed who died in the Lord.

Rachel after a time, uttered a few words in thanksgiving for her, and prayer for us who remain.

Thy letter, my dearest Rachel, gave me much satisfaction, and my opinion is, though death loses its sting of sin to the righteous, yet they equally, or very nearly so, have the natural conflict to pass through; and death certainly is a very great conflict, generally speaking; but it has struck me again and again, what this would have been to a sensitive mind, feeling at the same time the sense of condemnation and the sting of sin; but my beloved child, there is much in thy remarks, and I think the death of the righteous is often represented as too easy, for human nature is the same in all, and how much did our blessed Lord go through who took upon Himself our nature. Ah! my child, I think of thee and thy birth-day. May the Lord be with thee in it, opening thy eyes to behold the beauty of holiness, and enlarging thy heart by His own power to make thee willing "to lay aside every weight and the sin that may so easily beset thee, and to run with patience the race that is set before thee, looking to Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith."

---

* Selection of Hymns, by Priscilla Gurney.

In much near and dear love farewell,

E. Fry.

A near connexion and dear friend of the family, at the request of Mrs. Fry, wrote to one of her daughters, with some additional particulars of the closing scene.

"I at night retired to North Repps, so that I was not much of a burden to any, and the comfort it was to partake with them, and to be in the room with their most precious charge, I can never forget, or express. Thursday and Friday were not, that I recollect, particularly striking days, though so affecting; it was like being in the room with a peaceful, new-born babe—scarce a sound was heard, and little of what this world could give needed. The critical seasons of nursing over, a little liquid at intervals most gently and abstemiously administered, was all her tender state could bear—your mother was the most successful in getting that down—in compliance with her wishes, she took it to the last, even after her own mind had ceased to feel the duty or necessity of trying to do so; the light of a small fire was all that was admitted on her side of the room; the window was closely shaded, so that the reader, (and she was continually read to,) more often helped herself by fire light than from any aperture in the foldings of the window curtains; your uncles Francis Cunningham and Joseph John Gurney, and your aunt Catherine, as I understood, scarcely ever entered without her pointing to the reading seat, she seemed always to expect that they would have a Bible in their hands, and begin; they considered that she was soothed by reading, to the last night of her existence here: that, of course those alone could know, who were in the deepest sympathy with her, and who hung over her with devotedness of heart beyond my power of describing.

"I never can lose sight of that group, the cluster of sisters, the perfect stillness, the sacred and assured peace,—not a sob arrested the ear, but exquisite tenderness pervaded the whole: your mother prayed, returned thanks to the Saviour, and committed her, and then the family, fervently and unreservedly into His care. Joseph prayed in the same strain—a pause, and Fowell wished that text to be repeated to her, 'When Thou passest through the waters I will be with thee, and through the rivers they shall not overflow thee, &c., for I am the Lord thy God the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour;' your mother also repeated some of the most animating promises of God concerning the blessedness of a future state. 'Thou canst not conceive my love, the joys that will soon be thine, the glories that are prepared for thee; be encouraged to bear meekly the few remaining feelings of weakness and infirmity. Thy affliction will last but a moment longer, and endless happiness is in store for thee, and we will pray to the Saviour in his mercy to prepare us to follow thee, not to separate us long, but speedily to receive us all, and reunite us in His Kingdom.'"

First day, Fourth Month, 14th.—I returned from Norfolk —my second visit, after being from home about six weeks, where I had attended my much-loved sister to the last, almost constantly devoted to her in the day, for four weeks before her death, and then staying her funeral, &c. For the first fortnight, tenderly as I felt for my beloved sister's sufferings, yet there was so much sweetness in being with her, such inexpressible unity with her spirit in its redeemed state, that it was not a distressing time. I was also greatly favoured with excellent health, as the sea air appeared to revive me so much; but the last fortnight, my health sunk a good deal, and my beloved sister's great reduction, with, no doubt, some suffering, was almost too much for me; still I may acknowledge, that rather marvellously, every day help, strength, and sufficient consolation have been granted. I was certainly impatient at my darling sister being so long passing through the valley of the shadow of death; but how did I perceive my folly when I saw how gently she was led through it, and how I might observe the kind hand of Providence making her way naturally and spiritually; and I do believe, deeply as we felt for her, it was to herself greatly sweetened, and a renewed cause for us to return thanks on her account.

Mrs. Fry's return from Norfolk was shortly followed by new and very different interests to those which had occupied her by the death-bed of her sister. The subject of Capital Punishments had become one of increasingly general interest and discussion, opinions differed and opposing views were entertained; but it was no longer looked upon with indifference.

The Society "for the Improvement of Prison Discipline, and Reformation of Juvenile Offenders" was also actively at work. Many persons of influence had joined it, and zealously supported the plans of the committee. Mrs. Fry's experience at Newgate was considered as an exemplification of the effects of moral discipline and control, combined with Christian kindness. She believed it to be a positive duty to use the influence this circumstance gave her, to the utmost of her power, and to avail herself of every opportunity for communicating the results of her personal observation. Nor was her attention confined to this branch of the subject; she was too keen an observer not to know, that her experiment, though so successful, could not be universally tried, and that nothing short of a complete change in the spirit and practice of the criminal legislation of the country, carried on by systematic government regulation, could effect permanent and general good. She considered that the religion we profess to obey; that the humanity implanted even in the natural heart of man, should induce individuals suited for the office, to visit prisons, hospitals, and other public institutions; although this was to her mind a matter wholly independent of their construction and arrangement. In a letter on the subject of female convict ships, in which she urges the necessity of certain measures being adopted by government, she adds:—

"I am anxious that a few things which would greatly tend to the order and reformation of these poor women, and protect their little remaining virtue, should become established practices, authorized by government, and not dependent upon a few individuals, whose life and health, and every thing else, are so uncertain."

Few persons ever possessed so little speculativeness of character, combined with such extraordinary quickness of perception as Mrs. Fry. She perceived, that whereas the greater part of persons had hitherto been content to take no heed of passing circumstances, and to allow abuses to continue, scarcely recognizing their existence, the time was come, when the rights of humanity would make themselves heard. Men of reflection had begun to investigate the causes, and the probable results, of the facts around them. Enormous errors were committed, incalculable mistakes made, as must ever be the case, when finite man leans to his own finite understanding; yet the good preponderated; and where philosophy had learned in the school of Christ, undeniable truths were proclaimed, and peace and good will extended to mankind.

Mrs. Fry perceived that light had dawned, she was persuaded that it could never be again extinguished; but she saw, that to direct the mental energies of the people aright, general education, combined with scriptural instruction, and the unlimited circulation of the Holy Bible were absolutely requisite. She also saw a growing sympathy between all ranks and conditions of men, which, while it trenched not on the " powers that be," nor touched that beautiful order providentially arranged in their diverse ranks and positions, yet breathed a spirit of tenderness and consideration towards those in the humbler sphere, of respect and fitting reverence towards those in the higher. She never troubled herself with politics; all were her "kind friends," who listened to her representations, or supported measures, tending, as she believed, to the increase of religion and morality. She used to mention Dr. Porteus Bishop of London, having expressed the opinion that judging from the existing aspect of things, the time was not far off when men would rank themselves more and more on either side of the great arena of life—that the mass of mankind who had looked on, and scarcely heeded the battle would diminish in number; that though many might be mistaken, and, and with the best intentions support the wrong, whilst others would uphold the right from selfish or worldly motives ; yet that indifference would cease to be the prevailing and oppressing sin, and a lively participation in feeling if not in fact, with the subjects of the day would become general. Mrs. Fry would often remark the truth of these observations as years passed on ; and great measures were mooted, struggled for, and at last obtained.

On the 23rd of May, Sir James Mackintosh brought forward his motion, " for mitigating the severity of punishment in certain cases of forgery, and the crimes connected therewith." Sir Samuel Romilly had with the exception of Lord Nugent, and a very few others, stood almost unsupported in the Lower House ; now, the contest had become nearly equal, and Sir James Mackintosh's Bill was lost by a very small majority. It was on this occasion, that Mr. Buxton delivered his admirable speech upon Capital Punishment. Many had gone that night, doubtful as to the expediency of the measure proposed, but were convinced by Mr. Buxton's arguments, based as they were upon incontrovertible facts, varied calculations, and unquestionable evidence. Some had taken their seats, indifferent as to the question at issue; his warm appeal to their humanity, and the responsibility of legislating for the lives of thousands, without having weighed the merits of the case, or considered the practical effects of punishment, aroused them from their apathy; others from a dread of change, and a certain sort of adherence to the opinions of a party, unconnected with the merit or demerits of the opinions themselves, were startled by the delicate irony, with which he shewed the impracticability of the laws, and the strange devices resorted to, to evade their literal fulfilment. Excellently did he generalize the subject, when he said, "There is no one who will deny, that the laws of the land ought to be congenial with the feelings of the people. There was a time, we may suppose, in which this happy sympathy prevailed. But that period is long passed. During the last century, they have each fled from this point of concurrence; the law in its enactments, and the people, in the tenor of their feelings. The people have made enormous strides in all that tends to civilize and soften mankind, while the laws have contracted a ferocity, which did not belong to them in the most savage part of our history, and to such extremes of distance have they proceeded, that I do believe there never was a law so harsh as British law, or so merciful and humane a people as the British people. And yet, to this mild and merciful people, is left the execution of that rigid and cruel law!"

Although the 23rd of May brought a defeat, it was a defeat so nearly approaching to victory, as to afford Mrs. Fry heartfelt satisfaction. She had again cause to rejoice, when early in June, she witnessed the Freemasons' Hall filled on occasion of the Meeting for the Improvement of Prison Discipline, and the Reformation of Juvenile Offenders. The *Times* of the 4th of June, gives an account of the Meeting. She was mentioned by many of the speakers in terms of high eulogium, and was loudly applauded, when she quitted the Hall; but not an allusion to this is made in her journal, or in any letters that have been found.

The Duke of Gloucester presided, supported by Lord John Russell, Lord Stanley (Earl of Derby), Lord Belgrave, (Marquis of Westminster), Lord Calthorpe, the Bishop of Gloucester (Ryder), Sir James Mackintosh, Sir Thomas Baring, and many other inviduals of rank and talent. Nobly was the cause advocated which had brought them together. Lord John Russell was almost prophetic in expectation, when he concluded a short but brilliant speech by expressing his belief, that our country was about to "become distinguished for triumphs, the effect of which should be to save, and not to destroy;" and that "instead of laying waste the provinces of our enemies, we might begin now to reap a more solid glory in the reform of abuses at home, and in spreading happiness through millions of our own population."

CHAPTER XII.

1821—1823. Marriage of one of her daughters—Birth of her youngest child and eldest grandchild—Letter to the Princess Royal of Denmark —Letter to J. J. Gurney, 1823. Death of a sister-in-law—Visits to several Meetings—Sale of prisoners' work—Convict ships—Adventure on the Thames—Letter to Admiral Sir Byam Martin—Letter to the Right Hon. R. W. Horton—Letter from the Duchess of ——.—Conclusion of 1823.

THE death of Mrs. Fry's sister Priscilla Gurney, was followed by another domestic interest, the marriage of one of her daughters, a circumstance which excited all her maternal feelings. The connexion was one in which she would cordially have rejoiced, had she not known that it would separate her child from that body of Christians to which she was herself so closely united. The rule of the discipline amongst the Society of Friends is, to disunite from membership those who marry persons not members of the Society. It is very strictly enforced, and to promote such connexions is looked upon as an act of delinquency on the part of parents or guardians.

Plashet, Seventh Month, 5th, 1821.—I have been favoured to return home in peace, and what is more, with the very consoling hope and belief that I have done right in leaving Rachel at Runcton, to judge for herself in this most important affair; I cannot help thinking that, in tender mercy, a kind Providence has permitted it, and that it will be for good, should it take place. I have indeed had some awful plunges, and deep wadings about it, but have never in any of them believed it right to alter our determination respecting our dear child. I have certainly felt encouraged by the help of a better than myself, which has appeared peculiarly near, enabling me remarkably to commit the cause to Him; as if very near access was granted to Himself even the Fountain of all our sure mercies. And when most cast down, under the inexpressible fear that I was giving her up too soon; or that I should get involved by it, so as to act either inconsistently with my high religious profession, or be thought to do so by others, and so to hurt my services in the church; even at these times, I have felt a power within me, like oil upon the waters, quieting every storm, consoling and helping me. In the low, the very low state I have been brought into, with an acute sense of the reproach of man, so that I almost expected my mouth would have been shut in Meetings, I have been encouraged and naturally surprised to find that I have seldom known the power of the Spirit more near to help, and to be unto me tongue and utterance, wisdom and power. May it be a lesson to all, not too much to judge others for acting a little out of the usual course.

I can hardly express the peace, comfort, and sense of blessing I have had this day. Lord, continue to be very near unto thy unworthy servant, and to her children, and if this dear friend be united to her family, let him be unto her as a son and brother in Thee, O Lord! and as a true helper amongst us.

Plashet, 7th.—Something of a sweet hope and strong confidence, that however for a season I may be deeply tried, and not see the fruit I desire produced, yet that I can, and may adopt these words, "Although the fig-tree shall not blossom, neither fruit be in the vines, the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation."—"The Lord God is my strength, and He will make my feet like hind's feet, and cause me to ride upon mine high places." Oh, how unspeakably precious to know the Lord to be our helper, our strength and our comforter; unworthy as I am of it, I have found it to be peculiarly the case in my late anxiety. Surely there are times when we are enabled experimentally to acknowledge that Christ is to be felt in us, as a well of water springing up unto everlasting life. How marvellous is the power and principle of God's salvation in the soul of man!

Plashet, Eighth Month, 4th.—I have lately been hopeful and tranquil about my beloved child; trusting that all will end well. I have been much devoted to my other children. I feel this rest cause for much thankfulness, but from one cause and another, I have for the last few months gone through so much that I find my general health shaken. I am not so strong, I think, as I used to be; at times the prospect of going down the hill of life is awful, and the natural powers decaying, still it is accompanied by a sweet hope, that my last days may be my best days, and perhaps my brightest days, that, however, I must leave, only may I be ready to live or to die. Better prepared, if I live, to live more entirely to God; and if I die, to die in the Lord. Lord, grant that it may be so with me, and that those most near and dear to me, may be partakers also of the joys, glories, and power of Thy salvation. Amen.

Plashet, 29th.—My beloved daughter Rachel, was married last Fifth day, the 23rd, at Runcton, by my brother-in-law, Francis Cunningham. Great as the trial certainly has been, and is, to my natural feelings of her leaving the Society of Friends, yet I am of opinion that whatever she may eventually settle into, we have done right in not preventing this connexion; for my secret belief is, that it is for good, and a providential opening for her; though I am fully alive to the pains and disadvantages attending her marrying out of the Society of Friends.

30*th.*—"For we are made partakers with Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end." Lord, grant that Thy unworthy child hold fast her confidence stedfast unto the end, and not only so, but hold fast the profession of her faith without wavering; and if, as some fear for her, she has not stood her ground in her conduct in her child's marriage, make it manifest, that she never may act so again. And so, dearest Lord, take Thine own work into Thine own hands, with this beloved child, that as Thou turnest the stream in its course, so turn this event into good and into blessing to her and to us; as we have desired to do right in Thy sight respecting it, and have early committed the cause to Thy guidance and to Thy disposal, Oh, gracious Lord, protect as well as bless us and them in it.

Plashet, Ninth Month, 3rd.—I doubt not but that my late tendency to depression of spirits is caused not only by the sorrow which I certainly feel, and great disappointment, from a child not keeping to the principles that I have brought her up in, and also from the deep sense I have of their intrinsic value; but, moreover, that I have to bear my conduct in the affair being misconstrued by others. I have certainly met with much kindness, great love and sympathy, and from quarters where I should have least expected it, also particularly from the Friends of my own Monthly Meeting.

O Lord! Thou knowest that I love Thee and Thy cause above all things. I desire to serve Thee, and if Thou art pleased to continue to make use of me, may I be kept clean and bright by Thy power and fit for Thy service; and Oh, as Thou hast been pleased to enlarge the heart of Thy handmaid towards those who love and fear Thy name of other denominations, and that she dared not *prevent* her child being united to one of these—Oh, sanctify Thyself this union, strengthen them by Thy might in the inner man, to do Thy will, whatever it may lead them into; that their light may so shine before men, that they, seeing their good works, may glorify Thee, our Father, who art in heaven. Amen, and Amen.

Plashet, Tenth Month, 18*th*.—I have lately been called into various engagements. I attended the Quarterly Meeting of Kent to much comfort and satisfaction, surprised to find so much openness, so little obstruction in the way, and not a little consoled to feel the anointing, afresh and fully poured forth to my great relief; and I believe I may say enabled to declare the word in that power that tendered and refreshed many minds. Afterwards visited Lord and Lady Torrington, at Yotes Court; Maidstone Barracks and Gaol, and the Noels at Barham Court to satisfaction. The love of the gospel appeared much over us towards all amongst whom our lot was cast; our dear sister, E. Fry, was with us throughout. Since this, I attended the Quarterly Meeting for Sussex and Surrey, but not to the same relief and satisfaction.

I had one very important Meeting at Brighton, so many came that it rendered it a Public Meeting, it was a fearful time, but the best help was granted, to my peace and consolation, and a hope that it was not without good to others. Since my return home, last Seventh day, the 13th, I have been enabled to enjoy and estimate my blessings, particularly my delightful quiet home, garden, and little children.

Plashet, Eleventh Month, 17th.—Francis Cresswell and Rachel returned home last Sixth day week, 9th. Rachel's external change has of course been much felt by me, and at times I have been overwhelmed, but I consider it a mercy, that even when discouragements have most prevailed, I have been (I think) confirmed in the belief that what I did in the affair was not wrong, and that good will in the end spring out of it to my beloved child, and I trust to her dear husband also; and through all I see many causes for thankfulness in it. I feel it a time of much discouragement when cast in the way of Friends, kind as they are to me, feeling as if a cloud hung over me in their view. I am at times ready to be astonished, after having so loved their principles and made many sacrifices for them, that all these things should be. I desire to examine myself whether it is my fault, my omissions or commissions, or what is the cause; but it at times brings great humiliation, and I am ready to feel as if I never could again labour out of my own house or in my own Society; but this, I cannot, I dare not give way to; I never sought in my own will to be brought forward publicly as I have been, or could I have prospered in my public labours as I have prospered, had such been the case. It appears to me, that however deep my discouragements, I must follow on to know my Lord in any way that He may require, and put my whole trust in Him, who already has done wonders for me, more than I could either think or ask; and, who through all my trials, I believe will in spirituals and temporals prove Himself to be a wonder-working God, and that I shall yet know the mountains to flow down at His presence. I cannot but believe there will be those of my own house who will magnify His great and ever excellent name. Be it so, saith my soul, it would be more to me than the increase of corn, wine, or oil. I certainly have a strong confidence that spiritually and naturally help will arise, and that it is laid upon One that is mighty.

First Month, 9th, 1822.—My brother Buxton, Patty Smith, and I, went to town. She and I visited Cold Bath Fields and Clerkenwell Prisons, with the magistrates, and applied for a matron to be appointed.

Second Month, 8*th*.—A very busy town morning; visited Newgate, Milbank Penitentiary, and Tothill Fields Prison; our friends the Vennings and William Allen dined here.

Plashet, 13*th*.—Since I last wrote, I may say that my desires have been renewed to live under the cross, and not to flinch from it; in one instance, a want of prompt obedience, led me to withhold a few words of prayer, that rose in my heart, when my beloved sisters, and my dear brother, Samuel Hoare, were here, and I felt afterwards, that we suffered loss, but I desire to take warning, and at three different times afterwards, under rather trying circumstances to myself, I endeavoured to be faithful, and peace accompanied with humiliation, followed. I have desired to be watchful over personal indulgences, as my fatiguing life and often delicate health has given me a liberty in these things, that now I am better I desire to curtail, as far as it is right for me; but I find I do not serve a hard Master, nor one that would lead me into any extremes, for sometimes, when in my own will, for appearance sake, economy, &c., I have wished to leave off indulgences, I have not felt easy with it, and as far as I know, the right thing in my heart has warranted my using a sufficient supply of what I require, though of course limited by Christian moderation. But I may thankfully acknowledge my present needs being unusually small. I certainly find my bounds enlarged a little, as Job Scott expressed himself near his end, whatever is not criminal appears nearly alike to me, (or words to that effect). That which I believe the Spirit of Truth led me into, continues dear and valuable, and confirmed; though I do not certainly now feel small things of so much importance, as when they were peculiarly the seasonable and called for sacrifices, as I fully believe they were; such as dress, food, and perhaps some other things; in speech I think I have in no degree altered, never having seen it my place to conform to all the idiom of some Friends. The only thing that I know of the least alteration in, is in calling places after Saints;

I think I now and then do it, and as far as I remember, used not to do so. I am rather doubtful as to the scruple being now called for, as the word saint, has so much lost its original meaning, and simply describes the place; but I certainly could not conscientiously call my poor fellow-mortals saints; we know too little of each other, and have, I believe, no right to such titles, either on earth or after we are gone. I am not in the least shaken about our general language, on the contrary, quite confirmed from experience, as it respects the single language, titles to each other, except titles in law which I approve, as marking classes in society appointed by a wise and kind Providence. The names of the days and months, as used by Friends, I much prefer as more consistent with Scripture, and the Christian life; and I believe that the day is come, that even the names of the heathen gods are better not in our mouths as was prophesied would come to pass. Thus far, as it respects the cross in our peculiar views—may we, as a people, never conform to each other, but simply conform to the cross of Christ, as manifested to us individually; and keep to that manifestation, unless the same light and same power clearly lead out of it after it has effected its purpose, or remove it, which may at times be the case with further experience; and if this be the case, that we each follow the Spirit of Truth for ourselves, we shall continue to be in a measure, and become in a very increased measure, a lively and a spiritual body, showing forth the praise of the Most High. But to return to myself, I trust I endeavour to bear my cross as to temper, for I think my many cares, my sorrows, and also perplexities have made my natural temper much more irritable, and I too often feel condemned for a hurried, and at times provoked spirit, but I desire not to give way to it, and to watch against it, though occasionally I fear, it catches me unawares. I have great dread for myself, of dwelling in any degree in my ministry on good works, or being influenced in life by the good opinion of men, as I feel I naturally like to have it, and my timid and discouraged mind much feels their disapprobation; I do not think I am such a slave to the opinion of others as I was, for I have anxiously desired and endeavoured to serve my Lord, and not my fellow-mortals; and have suffered much from running the risk of their displeasure, in doing what I believed my duty. I trust, though I know it to be a temptation, it does not really influence my conduct more than it ought to do, in ministry, or in works of charity, as I never remember entering either service to please any mortal. My heart says, God forbid that I should do so; though after having obtained their approbation, (perhaps when least expected,) there may be some danger of desiring and endeavouring too much to maintain it. Dearest Lord, preserve me, even from this, that whatever I do, may be done purely to Thee, and to Thy glory. Amen.

My mind is much engaged by temporal things, managing my house, farm, &c., &c., from a duty this has become quite a pleasure; I desire to be thankful for it, but yet not to have my heart in the earth or the things of it; my mind feels so peculiarly qualified just now to enjoy the beauties of nature, from my children and our various animals, down to vegetation and minerals. May these things lead me upwards, and not draw me downwards. The prayer of my heart is, that in whatever I do I may be enabled to bring my deeds to the light, that it may be made manifest they "are wrought in God," and that my gracious Lord and Redeemer would see, if there be any evil way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

15*th.*—I went early to town, visited Newgate, Giltspur Street Compter, and Clerkenwell Prison.

Plashet, 21*st.*—Yesterday, we attended the wedding of Cornelius Hanbury and Mary Allen. It was a very solemn and comforting day.

Third Month, 9*th.*—Since I last wrote, we have visited almost every family belonging to Ratcliff Monthly Meeting, Elizabeth Copeland, my sister Elizabeth Fry, and myself. I may say that we have found what we believed to be the best help near us, as we went from house to house, enabling us to speak well for our Master, and to encourage the feeble travellers in their way to Zion. Some of the visits were poor and low times, with such as appeared to have their hearts more in present things than in those that are to come, which produces great flatness; but we were rejoiced to find many whom we could not doubt were humble-minded Christians, seeking to dwell near the Spirit of truth in their hearts. How do I rejoice in the prosperity of Zion, and the enlargement of her borders! (the true church, under all denominations, may be called Zion,) and in our small body, I love to see it spiritual and consistent with our high profession. I have felt it an honour and favour to be once more thus engaged in my dearest Master's cause, it has at times brought that sweet peace with it, that nothing else can give.

Hampstead, Fourth Month 11*th.*—We have been staying here a few days with my beloved brother and sister Hoare, as I wish to cultivate that love which is so precious between our two families. The excellent order of her children I rejoice to see, but it makes me low about mine, I fear that I am not equally doing my part towards them. Lord, make up my many deficiencies!

16*th.*—The day to me rather disturbed. I attended Newgate. Visited Sophia Vansittart, came home by four, and got ready to receive Lord and Lady Torrington, and the Benjamin Shaws, also my brother Buxton.

17*th.*—After reading, I knelt down in prayer. Lord and Lady Torrington went to Meeting with us; it was a very solemn one.

Plashet, Fifth Month, 2*nd.*—I am favoured with general health of body, and cheerfulness of mind; a good deal occupied by temporal things, though I trust not resting in them. My readings in Newgate at this time of year, are peculiarly exercising to me, so many attend, and often such a variety; and some of such high rank, I should think so little accustomed to hear the truth spoken. The prospect of them is sometimes really awful to me, and if I know the desire of my heart respecting them it is this—that the cause of truth and righteousness may be exalted, my Lord glorified, and living faith in Him promoted; and for myself and those engaged in the work, that we may dwell low before Him who hath helped us, abide in His fear, and not the fear of man; seek His pleasure, and not our own pleasure, and if in unmerited mercy, He is pleased to help us and to own us by His presence, that we may ever remember, that to us belongs nothing but confusion of face, but to Him alone, glory, honour, power, thanksgiving and praise. Amen. Lord, be pleased to bless these seasons, that we have been brought into, we humbly trust by the ordering of Thy providence; so that they may tend to good, and that they may be to some, as "bread cast upon the waters, that will return after many days."

Plashet, 28th.—Since writing the above, I have had fresh cause to raise up my Ebenezer; help having been granted, and to my own feelings way marvellously made for me, in things that I exceedingly dreaded. In the first place, I felt very low, and peculiarly under discouragement, partly from my sense of weakness both of body and mind, and partly from the idea that Friends might not feel unity with me after my child's marriage. In the first place, I had in the meeting of Ministers and Elders to pray for direction and help for myself and others during the Yearly Meeting, which appeared as if owned by the Great Head of the church. The next thing was our Ladies' Prison Meeting, which I dreaded, and had many misgivings about; however, this was got through quite beyond my expectation; the accounts of many instances of reform from different prisons were truly encouraging and comforting, and the whole feeling was as if a blessing were in it; dear Mary Dudley prayed, and several of us had to acknowledge the kindness of the Most High in it, and to Him alone, in all things, did we desire to give the glory. This Meeting gave me a little hope and encouragement, still, when I found that my awful concern to visit the Men's Meeting remained, fear was indeed my portion, and such a dread lest I might not know the voice of the great and good Shepherd; however, I found amidst all my fears, no way of relief for my mind, but in laying my views before the Women's Meeting; they were met with much unity and encouragement, quite beyond what I expected. My beloved sister, Elizabeth Fry went with me, Sarah Benson, and my aunt Jane Gurney. We entered the Men's Meeting, trembling. What an awful service it is for a poor weak woman to go amongst so many hundred men. After being seated, I soon found the spirit of prayer poured forth; I knelt down, and found myself greatly strengthened to offer up my supplications for ourselves, and for the body then present; Elizabeth Fry then spoke, in much calmness and power, which I doubt not would deeply impress those who heard her; I followed her, and it was marvellous to me the unction that I felt to deliver what opened to me, principally to the young people, and to the sorrowful and perplexed, especially from outward causes; there was great solemnity over the Meeting, and very many appeared to be in tears; therefore what can we say, but that our merciful God was on our side, and He became our Helper. Surely it is the Lord's doing, and marvellous in our eyes.

Much comfort and satisfaction were expressed after Meeting, by different Friends, and so my fears vanished. May this afresh lead me in doing and in suffering to commit my cause to my most Gracious Helper, Saviour, and Redeemer, and fully to trust in Him.

Sixth Month, 10th.—Obliged to go to town to meet the Prince and Princess of Denmark, at the Borough Road School; afterwards received a very poor account of dearest Jane. A low day.

Plashet, 13th.—Accounts came that our dear sister Jane, the wife of my much-loved brother Joseph, died at Earlham on Second day the 10th, a little before six o'clock, and that my dearest brother, thanks be to Him who helped him, was enabled to give her up with a resigned spirit. Heavenly love and support were very manifest to them both; and she appeared greatly prepared for it, notwithstanding the short notice she had. She was I believe, one who loved and feared the Lord, and who proved her love by her humble dedication, and watchful and circumspect conduct; she was an excellent wife, mother, daughter, and sister, a great friend to the poor, and remarkably generous. May her loss be fully made up, to our poor brother, by that gracious Power that has thus bereaved him of one so dear and so lovely to him.

Earlham, 16th.—After weighing the matter the best I could, such were my inexpressible drawings of love to Joseph and the others, that I believed it best for my body and mind to come here, though I left home really poorly; but I found the change of air useful, till last evening after arriving here, when I felt very unwell, which took sad hold of my nerves, and I had a painful night. Still I may acknowledge my true and deep consolation in seeing my dearest brother Joseph, my aunt Birkbeck, and the rest of the family so greatly even marvellously supported.

Earlham, 21st.—Day by day strength is granted to us, to my beloved brother and his poor mother-in-law, though the late afflicting event casts a cloud over all temporal things; some of the party appear wonderfully raised in spirit and strong in faith. I rejoice and am glad for them, for myself I feel peculiarly unworthy, and as if far behind some others in spiritual advancement, and true dedication; I am ready to be reminded of that text, "The first shall be last, and the last first." Still I trust there is a following on to know the Lord amidst many infirmities.

Earlham, 22nd.—I feel brought low before the Lord; what can I say and what can I do, but beseech Thee, oh, our Lord! to care for us, present and absent, to undertake for us, to show us the sufficiency of Thy grace, and the power of Thy salvation. We beseech Thee, through Him that hath loved us and given Himself for us, that Thou wouldest draw us all, whether now far from Thee or near unto Thee, by the powerful cords of Thy loving kindness, out of darkness into Thy marvellous light, that we may ever dwell in Thy light and in Thy love, and know the fulness of Thy power, Thy glory, and Thy majesty. Amen.

We were favoured to get through the first Meeting of the Quarterly Meeting to great satisfaction, the truth arose even into something of dominion; many of the Lord's servants had to minister in His name, and even I unworthy as I am, was greatly helped.

Plashet, Seventh Month, 1st.—I was just set off for town, when I had to return, to receive the Princess of Denmark; it was a satisfactory visit. Several Italian noblemen and others to dinner. My brother and sister Hoare and many besides slept here. My fatigue great.

4*th.*—I hope it is with much thankfulness that I can acknowledge being safely at home. I expect to-morrow to have all our family with us, our ten children with dear Rachel's husband. There is to my feelings a great blessing in being thus surrounded by our numerous family; and I have real pleasure, and at times joy in it, though I must also say that my longings are beyond expression to have all more devoted to the best of Masters—to see them more under the influence of the Holy Spirit—more under the discipline of the cross of Christ, that it might be more fully, more clearly, and more decidedly manifest, that as for us and our house we serve the Lord. The best of things, the best of causes, not being sufficiently uppermost with us, my soul is brought to cry unto the Lord for help. What can I do? A poor unworthy servant; I am fearful of doing too much, and fearful of doing too little. Oh, that I may be enabled to seek and find counsel of God. I believe there is a good root of principle in all of my children, of an age of understanding, but I long for them to show themselves more decidedly upon the Lord's side, and more openly to profess Christ before men; I trust there is an increase of this work in some of them. Lord work in them in Thine own way, only let none rest till they experience the power of Thy salvation for themselves. Amen.

31*st.*—We propose in a few days, breaking up our interesting party. My husband, myself, and little Hannah and Louisa mean to go to Runcton, and then to the sea at Hunstanton, with our beloved brother Joseph, our sister Rachel, and his dear little children. We trust that this is a right arrangement, and we hope that it may strengthen my health, previous to my confinement. In a day or two after our dear boys are gone to school, we mean to set off, therefore we know not whether it may ever please the Lord that we should all meet again, two of us particularly; however, we must seek to leave it entirely to Him, whose tender mercies are over all His works, and who alone knows what is best for us. When our families are scattered in different parts, may our Lord be near unto us, and may He preserve our goings out and our comings in before Him.

Hunstanton, Eighth Month, 16th.—My husband, myself, Hannah and Louisa, arrived here this day week to dinner; where we have met with a most kind and hospitable reception at our dear aunt Birkbeck's, herself and our kind friend Maria Sewell, doing all they can to make us happy and comfortable. We had a peculiarly pleasant and satisfactory journey here; we arrived at Runcton on Third day, and staid there, till Sixth day; my dear brother's kindness was abundant to us, and our beloved Frank and Rachel, whom we found there much enjoyed seeing us. It was a very uniting, peaceful time, but by far my greatest comfort on the journey, has been my dearest husband's company.

20*th.*—Yesterday was our wedding-day, we have been married twenty-two years; how many dispensations have I passed through since that time, how have I been raised up and cast down! How has a way been made in the depths, and a path in the mighty waters; I have known much of good health, and real sickness; great bodily suffering, particularly in my confinements, and deep depression of spirits.

I have known the ease of abundance of riches, and the sorrow and perplexity of comparative deprivation; I have known to the full I think, the enjoyment of domestic life; even what might be called the fulness of blessing, and also some of its most sorrowful and most painful reverses. I have known the aboundings of the unspeakable, soul-satisfying, and abounding joy of the Lord; and I have been brought into states, when the depths had well nigh swallowed me up. I have known great exaltation amongst my fellow-mortals, also deep humiliation. I have known the sorrow, of some most tenderly beloved, being taken from me by death; and others given me, hitherto more given than taken.

What is the result of all this experience? It is even, that the Lord is gracious and very merciful, that His compassions fail not, but are renewed every morning; and may I not say, that His goodness and mercy have followed me all the days of my life? Though He has at times permitted me amidst many and unspeakable blessings to pass through unutterable sorrows; known only to the full extent by Him and my own soul, yet He hath been an All-sufficient helper; His right hand hath sustained me and held me up, blessed be His name for ever, He hath never forgotten to be gracious, nor hath He shut up His tender mercies from me. May I not indeed raise up my Ebenezer, and acknowledge that there is indeed "no God like our God," and that it is indeed a most blessed thing to serve Him, even if it be by the way of the cross, for He is indeed worthy to be served, worshipped and obeyed, now and for ever. Above all, I pray for myself, that whatever dispensations I may yet pass through, nothing may separate me from His love, or hinder me from His service, but that I may be increasingly and entirely devoted to Him in heart, mind, and spirit; through the help of my most dear and blessed Redeemer.

Plashet, Ninth Month, 6th.—I arrived at home to dinner last Third day, after being absent four weeks and a day.

We left Lynn on Second day morning in much love and peace. My dearest brother Joseph, my sister Rachel, and my little Hannah to Earlham; ourselves to return home.

TO HER BROTHER JOSEPH JOHN GURNEY.

Plashet, *Ninth Month, 6th,* 1822.

My dearest Joseph,

I believe thou wilt rejoice to hear, as well as Catherine and Rachel, that I never remember arriving at home, and finding the whole aspect of things so peaceful, and according to my desire; my reception has been most cordial. I am more and more of the opinion, that there is an arising of light amongst us, that I humbly trust and inexpressibly crave may in due season disperse all the darkness. I paid a very satisfactory visit to Frank and Rachel, and there found much cause of comfort and satisfaction. I feel finely myself, and I hope truly thankful for this time of rest from trial, for so I think I must call it: indeed in all states my Lord has been abundantly gracious to me, and is pleased just now in a peculiar manner to manifest it to me. I believe the quiet and refreshment of Hunstanton, and some of your dear company, has greatly tended to my present degree of health, and even in measure to the capacity of enjoying my home comforts.

Thy nearly attached sister,

ELIZABETH FRY.

Plashet, 16th.—I believe it right once more to make an acknowledgment of the mercy of my God. Although I feel in a very sensitive state of mind and body, yet my soul is in great mercy kept calm, quiet, and generally cheerful, before the Lord; I speak thus because through the grace and free mercy of my God, I feel in measure living unto Him; and as if His power and His presence were near, to calm the storms that would naturally arise, and also as if what I did, I was enabled to do in reference to His will. Most assuredly He is no hard Master; how truly can I speak to this! although in wisdom He has led me by the way of the cross, very greatly so, to flesh and blood, both in doing and in suffering; yet there is abundant liberty in the gospel, how do I at times find that the very same Spirit leads into rest and refreshment and consolation—how far from requiring what we are not able to perform! May those, for such there are, I do believe, even tender ones, who desire to do right in the sight of the Lord; who from their own activity go beyond His requirings, and therefore misinterpret His word inwardly and outwardly, and make religion appear a gloomy and rigid path, may these be brought to feel the rest, refreshment and even right liberty (not in evil) which the gospel of light and salvation really brings into. I think I know what it is when a fearful mind, or looking to the opinions of others, or a judgment of myself has led to a sort of self-denial, that the best witness in my heart has neither warranted nor led into, though I most fully acknowledge also that too great laxity is my more prevailing temptation, as it respects myself and others—but enough do I know of the true liberty of the gospel, however at seasons we may indeed have to bear our cross in doing and in suffering—enough do I know of it, to long for all to be brought into it, from the most worldly to the most rigid formalist, under every denomination, for such I believe there are amongst all; and though I feel for these, in what appear to me bonds of their own making, yet I doubt not, but that in tender mercy they are accepted, and that their state is safe indeed, compared with that of the worldly-minded.

Plashet, 24th. — Dined at Ham House, to meet Dr. Chalmers.

On the 1st of November, her eleventh and youngest child was born, and on the same day her eldest grandchild.

Plashet, Eleventh Month, 7th.—Words fall utterly short of expression of the unmerited mercy which has been shown us. On the night of the 30th, I had to pass through a very deep conflict of spirit, comfort appeared to fail, deep discouragement and great fear took hold of me; I felt I had a baptism to be baptized with, and how was I straitened until it was accomplished, (if the servant dare allude to drinking even at seasons of the cup the Master drank of) but after a time the conflict ceased, sweetness, trust, love and confidence, took place of it. I felt bound to have my husband, children, my dear sister Gurney, and Susan Pitchford, besides such of the maids as liked to join us collected together, when, after reading I poured forth my soul in fervent prayer, for my dearest Rachel and myself in our time of conflict, for help spiritually, and naturally for tender mercy. And how striking to me it was, in little more than twenty-four hours—only fourteen hours apart—Rachel and myself had each a darling boy born. Both of us very graciously and wonderfully helped.

Plashet, 13th.—I write this journal in the midst of my lying-in with my eleventh child, in a very tender delicate state of body, and unworthy state of soul, after having (of late peculiarly) received many and great blessings, spiritually and naturally. I cannot feel thankful enough for all my many blessings; so weak has been my state that the very grasshopper has become a burden, and I think I have shown my infirmity to others, as well as felt it myself, though I may say that I have sought after a quiet and patient spirit. In a serious and trying attack of spasms in my side, I found in tender mercy, that Power to be near, which helped me; although I was seriously alarmed about myself, I felt my pleasant pictures marred, and was even much affected at the idea, that perhaps I should be taken from my beloved family, still I think it was principally nervous fear; for when such a call really comes, strength will be given for the time, and the same help administered, that has so marvellously been displayed in many of the deep conflicts of time.

My soul feels utterly unworthy, and deeply prostrate before Thee, dearest Lord, at my utter inability fully to return Thee thanks for all Thy benefits. Make me fit to receive them; enable me to acknowledge them; strengthen me to walk more circumspectly before Thee in thought, word, and deed. Thou knowest that I love Thee, that, above all things, I believe my desire is, to serve Thee, love Thee, and obey Thee. Thou hast manifested, and canst manifest Thyself to be all-sufficient, to be "strength in weakness, riches in poverty, and a present helper in every needful time." Grant a little help, if Thou seest meet to bring me again into life; that I may serve Thee better, love Thee more, and as a wife, mother, mistress, and member of Thy church, and of society at large, may more perfectly keep my eye single unto Thee, and do all to Thee, and through Thee, to the praise of Thy holy name. And continue to grant if it please Thee, a blessing on those labours of love, that Thou hast permitted me to be brought into in the prisons, and that the work may not stop till much more be accomplished in it. Amen.

First day, 17*th*.—My body recovering, though weak. My spirit tendered before the Lord for His great and unspeakable benefits. My naturally too-insensible heart softened before Him, who I may say is the delight of my soul, my Lord and my God, my Saviour and Redeemer. I remember those that are worshipping, as worshipping with them, and my spirit feels sweet unity with the Church Militant, and perhaps, though utterly unworthy of it with the Church Triumphant, as if I could unite with both, in the everlasting song of high praises, even to our God, and to His Lamb, who hath shown such tender mercy towards us, and made Himself manifest to us as our Saviour and Redeemer. Blessed for ever be His name.

27th.—Peace and sweetness appear to rest upon me in entering life. Oh! for my sweet infant, if life be granted him, may he be indeed devoted to the Lord. We neither circumcise nor baptize, but may he be baptized by the saving baptism of Christ! and be in spirit circumcised unto the Lord! I have (perhaps in weakness) much set my heart upon this child, rather expecting he may be a comfort to us in our old age, and not only so, but above all, that he may prove a devoted servant of Christ. May this blessed work not be hindered by any false indulgence in us; but may it be truly promoted by example, precept, and the true discipline of love and wisdom.

Twelfth Month, 2nd.—Yesterday, at Meeting, the Truth rose into much dominion, blessed be the name of the Lord. I was enabled to supplicate and minister to my own relief, and I trust to the refreshment of others, also my dearest brother Joseph, Rebecca Christy, and my sister, Elizabeth Fry, in prayer. It appeared a solemn time. The day, generally speaking, a favoured time; but in the night I was deeply brought to a sense of my own weakness. If the beautiful garments spiritually were put on in the morning, surely they were taken off at night. What are we but instruments, however, for a season decorated with our Lord's ornaments; self cannot boast, when left to ourselves, and our decorations taken off! How wonderful is the work of the Spirit—how it heals, and raises up body and soul, when they are to be brought into service; none can tell, but those who have experienced something of it, how the anointing is poured forth from on high. It is an honour I am unworthy of, to be thus helped spiritually, particularly in the ministry. But how deeply doth my spirit crave that I may also be aided in all the practical duties of life.

14th.—I yesterday went to London, and visited Newgate. My greeting there was warm from the prisoners, the committee, and others. I felt peaceful there, and afresh sensible that the work was not ours, that we had first been brought there; and I had to crave a blessing upon our labours, and also to acknowledge the tender mercy of our God as our Saviour and Deliverer. I was low in myself, but felt renewedly the great importance of the prison cause; and if those who espouse it, are enabled to persevere, what good may be done, in preventing much crime that has been both plotted and perpetrated in prisons.

During the visit to England of the Prince and Princess Royal of Denmark, they inspected many of the public institutions and charities, and took a lively interest in objects that conduced to the moral and religious welfare of the people. It was therefore a particularly gratifying circumstance to Mrs. Fry, that one morning, when paying her respects at Gloucester House, Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester presented her to the Princess, who was also there. A few days afterwards, the family at Plashet were surprised by an intimation, that the Princess would that morning, honour them with her company to breakfast. She came, and remained some hours; this occasion was the commencement of that intercourse which continued at intervals till the close of Mrs. Fry's life.

TO THE PRINCESS ROYAL OF DENMARK.

Plashet House, *Eleventh Month,* 23*rd,* 1822.

Dear and respected Friend,

Allow me to call thee so, for such I feel thee, as thou art truly both loved and respected by me. According to thy kind and condescending wish, expressed when here; I take up my pen to inform thee, that upon the first of this month, through the tender mercy of my God I was safely delivered of a sweet boy, and to add to our cause of joy and thanksgiving, my dear daughter had also one born on the same day, so that twenty-four hours added a son and grandson to our already numerous family; we have, both of us, with our infants, been going on well, and with the exception of some illness, that I passed through in the early part of my confinement, and my habitual delicacy at such times, I am as well now as I can expect to be.

I have often thought of thy kind visit with deep interest, and strong desires are raised in my heart for thy welfare and preservation in every way, that the God of Peace may be with thee continually, guiding thee by His counsel, helping thee by His Spirit, comforting thee by His love, during thy continuance here; and afterwards, when He may be pleased to take thee hence, to be seen of men no more, through His mercy in Christ Jesus, receiving thee into glory. I also feel real interest and best desires for the Prince Royal,—may you both be encouraged in every good word and work. I remember the words of Paul, in the 15th chapter of the 1st of Corinthians, 58th verse. "Be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

It would give me great pleasure and satisfaction to hear from thee, or if that be asking too much, perhaps the lady whom we had the pleasure of seeing here, will let us know many particulars respecting your welfare, and how you go on in Denmark, as it respects the prisons, schools, and other works of charity and love. I should also be pleased to know whether the books and the other things we sent to Count Moltke, and also some of the work of the prisoners, ever came safely to thy hand, as we were prevented sending them quite so soon as we hoped to have done. I should be glad to be very respectfully and affectionately remembered to the Queen, and also to the Prince Royal, thy consort; and believe me, with much respect and regard,

Thy attached and obliged Friend,
Elizabeth Fry.

Plashet, First Month, 2nd, 1823.—"Our years pass away as a tale that is told." Upon concluding one, and beginning another year, my heart has been brought low before the Great I Am; and I have desired, after a renewed searching of heart, to see how my accounts stand spiritually, and in what I can more fully serve my Lord, and bear the fruits of the Spirit. I have inwardly prayed for help, as well as vocally, for myself, my family, my household, and those most near and dear to me; above all, that there may be known amongst us more of the light, life, and spirit of religion; and beyond every other blessing, more knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus. In looking back to the last year, I see an unusual portion of blessing to have been granted us, as it respects my unworthy self, I have, I think, been permitted to be once more established in the unity of my friends, which I fancied was a little shaken respecting my conduct in Rachel's marriage; and had their real unity proved in a remarkable manner, on my going into the Men's Yearly Meeting, deeply in the cross to myself, but eventually to my great edification and abundant consolation.

Outwardly, we have received much of blessing. In the first place, a sweet child and grandchild granted us. Our whole family being in health. In things temporal, enough and more than enough for our real comfort; residing in the pleasant country, I esteem a blessing; and besides all this much capacity to enjoy has been our portion, much more so, since the best things have been more uppermost. One of my deepest sorrows has been in sympathy with my most tenderly beloved brother, in the loss of his sweet and valuable wife. What another year may produce we must leave; but I desire beyond all, that spiritual blessings may more abound amongst us, that grace, mercy, and peace may dwell within our borders, also within the borders of those most near and dear to us. With regard to things temporal, I desire to commit our cause to Him who knows what is best for us; humbly praying a continuance of His mercy and goodness, and that in each of our trials His grace may be sufficient for us.

Amongst the strongest interests of the opening year was the marriage of Mrs. Fry's youngest brother Daniel Gurney Esq., of North Runction, to the Lady Harriet Hay, one of the daughters of the Earl of Erroll. The contrast of his circumstances of prosperity, with those of his brother, Joseph John Gurney, treading the lonely path of widowhood, touched her closely; and after writing to one brother, she thus addressed the other.

To her brother Joseph John Gurney.

Plashet, *First Month, 8th,* 1823.

My dearest Joseph,

Having just written to one dear brother, feeling and expressing my sympathy in his joys; I think I shall better conclude my morning's work, by also telling thee how much I have been with thee in mind in thy low estate. I feel for thee and sympathize with thee, but if a poor fellow-mortal feels so tenderly for another, how must it be with Him, whose love, pity and tender compassion are unbounded. Surely thy Lord and His Comforter, will be found very near to thee, in His own time healing thy wounds. I believe, as we may rejoice and return thanks for our dear brother's present fulness of enjoyment, so we may also for thee in thy privations; because all is permitted in tender mercy and loving-kindness. I doubt not that thou hast many pains to bear, by night and by day, as the desolation produced by thy loss would naturally occasion; but I trust patience will have its perfect work, and so tend further to purify and redeem and fit thee for thy Master's work. I wish in any way we could help or comfort thee; wouldest thou like Kate to pay thee a visit for two or three weeks, or is there any thing we could do to cheer thee?

We are going on comfortably here; my darling baby a considerable object of interest. I am once more moderately launched in public as well as private life, I am therefore much engaged, and although often fagged, yet not really overdone, I take so much care of myself. There has been a feeling of peace in entering Meetings and the prison cause again, as if the calling to these things was continued: how I desire a simple, faithful, watchful walking, with my eye single to the Lord. My path calls for cautious steppings, and peculiarly needs the best light —may it be granted me.

Many begin to come here after me, as I cannot leave my babe to go to them.

Farewell, my much loved brother,
Thy nearly attached sister,
E. FRY.

Plashet, First Month, 8th.—A deep feeling of infirmity has been my portion. Yesterday, my mind was so much engrossed in temporal things, that I did not get rid of them even at Meeting; and the day before some inattention in a servant annoyed me too much in mind, which in degree was shown, so as to be followed by condemnation, and being thus brought, through my omissions and commissions to the feet of Jesus, the prayer of my heart is to Him for justification and purification, that I may know my transgressions to be forgiven, and that I may be afresh fitted and prepared by His Spirit, for a more watchful and circumspect walk before Him, whom my soul loves, and pants after; and I believe desires above all things to serve, worship, and obey.

22nd.—On the 16th, I was sent for to Hampstead, to my beloved sister Hoare, (who was ill). Such seasons are to me times of real conflict spiritually and naturally; spiritually, to know what in the way of religious service may be required at my hand, and also close sympathy with those in trouble, naturally, from my acute sense of suffering, and my excessive love for my sisters. I know few things that occasion me a deeper feeling of impotence and unworthiness, than attending the sick. I may say, it always brings home to me very deeply the unworthiness of my own heart; indeed, I do not much think nursing is my allotment, though often in it, for my acute feeling for those near to me is such, that however I may maintain a cheerful countenance, my heart is affected so as painfully to shake my nerves.

The sentiments here expressed respecting her attendance on the sick, are very different from those entertained of her by other people. Mrs. Fry displayed in such cases, great presence of mind; a quick perception of the changes taking place in the patient, singular readiness in expedients to meet them, much judgment and skill in the administration of remedies; and the whole combined with a quiet cheerful manner, and most tender sympathy, so as to inspire complete confidence and dependence on herself in the sufferer, as well as the assistants.

I attended Westminster Meeting which I have looked to for some time as well as others of our Quarterly Meetings. I believed when there, that if I were well carried through that, to the relief of my own mind, and if best help then felt near, I should have to visit most of the Meetings in our Quarterly Meeting, held on First day mornings. It so proved that I felt help very near, so that the language of my spirit was, "It is the Lord's doing and marvellous in my eyes." In nothing has the work of grace been so marvellous to me as in the ministry; it surely is not my own work—I know enough of myself to believe it to be quite impossible. Oh, what an unction I now and then feel, it is as much to be felt strengthening the soul, as the body is felt to be refreshed after wholesome and good food. The work of the Spirit is a wonderful work, and to my naturally doubting and sceptical mind astonishing. I have been permitted to know more of it than I could have either asked or thought. I believed it best to lay my prospect of a general attendance of these Meetings, before our dear Friends at the Monthly Meeting yesterday, which was to my peace; sweet unity and sympathy were expressed in it, and my beloved sister E. F. proposed to join me, which is a comfort to me. It is cause of much thankfulness to have such a companion.

Plashet, Second Month, 13th.—I attended Tottenham Meeting on the 2nd. I went low and under deep exercise of mind; I returned in great measure relieved, though naturally upset with many fears; I hardly ever remember being engaged in a service where doubts and fears beset me to an equal extent. On First day, the 9th, we were at Devonshire House; it was an extraordinary Meeting. I desire in more simplicity of faith to attend the other Meetings. I think I have been too anxious, too fearful; if the work be not ours, why worry and perplex myself about it?

19th.—Since writing the above, I attended the Peel Meeting on First day, which was to the great relief of my mind: since that time my bonds have appeared wonderfully broken, my spirit has had to rejoice and be glad, and my fears have been removed, so that I can indeed say, how marvellous is the work of the Spirit!

On Second day, I dined at the Mansion House, with my husband; a change of atmosphere spiritually, but if we are enabled to abide in Christ, and stand our ground, we may by our lives and conversation glorify God, even at a dinner visit, as well as in more important callings. Generally speaking, I believe it best to avoid such occasions, for they take up time, and are apt to dissipate the mind; although it may occasionally be the right and proper calling of Christians, thus to enter life; but they must then keep the eye very single to Him, who having placed them in the world can alone keep them from the evil.

24th.—We were helped through the service yesterday at Ratcliff Meeting. It really appeared a favoured time, and peculiar harmony and power in the ministry generally prevailed, with great solemnity in the silence. I may say that I had afterwards a cheerful, peaceful day with my family.

Third Month, 5th.—I have lately been remarkably full of occupations, and yet they have appeared right, and almost unavoidable. On First day, I attended Southwark Meeting; mercy and peace eventually accompanied it. On Fifth day, I went to town, to meet the Secretary of State (Sir Robert Peel) and the Speaker of the House of Commons, at Newgate, with my brother Fowell Buxton and my husband; I trust the time was blessed to the good of the cause.

Sixth day in town again to Newgate, one of the bishops and many others there; it was a solemn time—a power better than ourselves seemed remarkably over us. I visited another prison and then returned home; besides these out of door objects, I am much engaged in nursing my babe, which is a sweet employment, but takes time; the rest of the children are comfort ably settled in with dear Mary Ann Davis, who is now once more with us. Upon sitting down to write, and looking round me, surrounded as I am with my family, supplied with so many temporal comforts, spiritual blessings not withheld; for I trust that there is rather an increase than decrease of the best thing amongst us; I thought as the query arose in my heart, "Lackest thou any thing?" I might indeed say, "Nothing, Lord," except a further establishment for us all, in the ever blessed truth, as it is in Jesus. What can I render to Thee for all thy benefits? Grant, dearest Lord! in Thy child and servant, a heart fully and entirely devoted to Thee and Thy service. Amen.

29th.—Since I last wrote, I have attended Winchmore Hill Meeting to satisfaction, together with my dear sister Elizabeth, William Allen, and my brother Samuel, whose company I enjoyed. My husband has engaged Leslie, the painter, to come and take likenesses of him and me, to which, from peculiar circumstances, I have appeared obliged to yield; but the thing, and its effect on the mind are unsatisfactory to me, it is not altogether what I like or approve; it is making too much of this poor tabernacle, and rather exalting that part in us which should be laid low, and kept low; I believe I could not have yielded the point, had not so many likenesses of me already appeared, and it would be a trial to my family, only to have these disagreeable ones to remain. However, from one cause or another, this has not been a satisfactory week, too much in the earth and the things of it, too little in the spirit; though not without seeking to take up my cross, deny myself, and follow my Lord and Master. I feel particularly unfit and unworthy to enter again upon my religious engagement; we propose going to Uxbridge this evening. My only hope is in Him, who can alone cleanse, fit, strengthen and prepare for his own work; under a deep feeling of my short comings, may I not say, dearest Lord, undertake for me!

Fourth Month, 7th.—We went to Uxbridge, though naturally rather a low time, yet it ended to my real comfort. The Morning Meeting was a very solemn one, a deep feeling of good, and the anointing of the Spirit appeared freely poured forth. The

Evening Meeting was satisfactory; and in several religious opportunities in the families, my heart was enlarged in much love to the dear Friends there, whom I think I may say, I love in the Lord.

12*th*.—Since I last wrote, we have been engaged in various ways, particularly in the sale of work done by the poor prisoners in Newgate; this has been a considerable public exposure, but I trust not without profit. I deeply felt upon entering it, the danger of the pollutions of the world, and the desire that we, who are seeking in this way to promote the cause of truth and righteousness might maintain the watch on this point. I trust no harm was done; but I feel after being with so many, and associating with so many, much brought down in myself, under a feeling of great infirmity. I think in looking back the two last days, I do not feel condemned, but rather that I have been in my right place, and that some good may result from the whole thing. Still as a poor instrument, I fear greatly for myself; knowing my inclination to stand in awe of men, and greatly to mind their displeasure, although I am not so sensible of being exalted by their approbation. I also fear for myself, lest the enlargement of heart I feel towards all, particularly the members of the Church of Christ, of every denomination, and the sort of liberty I feel, which I apprehend to be "in the gospel," should lead me to outstep my bounds, and give myself a liberty beyond that which I have attained unto; or that in abounding love and good-will to others, I should be induced to cover, bear with, or acknowledge that, which should be decidedly testified against. I long to stand my ground in all things, at all times, and in all situations, faithfully to bear the cross of Christ; at the same time proving what I so abundantly feel, the liberty, joy and glory of that salvation that cometh by Christ. How perfectly true it is, that His followers find His yoke to be easy, and His burden light. I have the comfort to feel, notwithstanding my many fears on the subject, particularly for myself; a considerable portion of peace, hope and belief, that the remarkable manner in which we have been brought forward in these services, is not of our own ordering, but that we may acknowledge in deep humility of heart that it is the Lord's doing—to Him alone can we look, and upon Him alone depend for help and preservation. Lord, continue to be near unto us in this work, in the various situations into which it may introduce us, may we experience the blessing of preservation, may our labours be blessed in checking the power of evil, and in turning the sinner from the error of his way, unto Thee, our Lord, our Saviour and our Redeemer!

The quantity of work executed by the prisoners in Newgate was considerable. In order to dispose of it, a sale was occasionally resorted to. It was held in some public room in London, the ladies of the Newgate Association selling, at different tables the various proceeds of the prisoners' industry. It was conducted very much on the same plan as the sales of fancy work, since so common for the benefit of charities. On the present occasion, the sum of three hundred and nineteen pounds was realised.

In addition to Newgate, the Borough Compter, and Giltspur Street Compter were regularly attended by members of the Ladies' Association; Whitecross Street prison was also occasionally visited by them. The arrangements first made by Mrs. Fry had now borne the test of six years' experience, and the results were highly satisfactory, not only in those prisons which may be supposed to have been under her personal superintendence, but also in the many prisons in the different parts of this kingdom, and on the continent, where ladies had formed committees to visit the female prisoners. At the time of which we are writing, the subject of prison discipline was but imperfectly understood; though it was generally acknowledged that classification was necessary, that the most abandoned characters might not associate with the comparatively uncontaminated. Employment and instruction were considered essential for every class of prisoners, and it was with peculiar pleasure, Mrs. Fry saw the principle admitted, and ultimately become the law of the land, that women, when in prison, were to be placed under the charge of female officers. She was anxious that the same system should be carried out by the appointment of matrons on board the convict ships; where, with the exception of the Naval Surgeon Superintendent, the women were placed under the care of *sailors*. The masters of these vessels, as well as their crews had the power of free communication with them, not only during the voyage, but whilst the vessel lay in the River Thames, which was frequently the case for weeks together. To separate one class of prisoners effectually from another, was impossible in these floating prisons; if they did not meet when below, nothing could prevent them from associating with whom they pleased when on deck. There was no one to teach them to read—no religious instruction. There was no adequate provision for the preservation of cleanliness, and their clothing was insufficient.

Since the Maria had been visited in 1818, as each successive season brought the sailing of a female convict ship, the subject obtained a large share of Mrs. Fry's attention. Amongst those who assisted her in her efforts to improve the condition of these ships, the late Mrs. Pryor was one most especially devoted to the work; with the exception of one ship, (the unfortunate Amphitrite), she visited every transport which sailed from England with female convicts, until prevented by the sickness, which terminated in her death, in 1841.

This was not done without much fatigue and inconvenience; frequent exposure to weather in open boats, and occasionally to danger. On one occasion, Mrs. Pryor and Mrs. Fry were placed in a situation of considerable alarm, from which they were relieved, by the interposition of the present Harbour Master at Ramsgate. Both the objects of his kind consideration having passed hence, and the particulars of the circumstance being imperfectly retained in the memory of those to whom they related it; we are indebted to him for the following account:—

"It was on a fine sultry day, in the summer of 1821, that I was racing up the River Thames, in the command of the Ramsgate Steam Packet, Eagle, hoping to overtake our Margate competitors, the Victory, and Favourite steamers, and bringing them nearer to view as we rounded the points of the Reach of the river. It was in the midst of this excitement, that we encountered one of those sudden thunder squalls, so common in this country, and which passing rapidly off with heavy rain, leave behind them a strong and increasing northerly gale. I was looking out ahead, pleasing myself with the reflection that we were the fastest vessel against a-head wind, and should certainly overtake our Margate friends; when upon entering Long Reach, about two miles below Purfleet, I saw a boat labouring with very little effect against the gale, and with a whole ebb-tide just making to add to their difficulties; in this boat were two ladies, in the close habit of the Society of Friends, evidently drenched with the heavy shower which had overtaken them. I was then a dashing, high-spirited sailor; but I had always a secret admiration of the quiet demeanour of that Society, and occasionally had some of them passengers with me, always intelligent and inquiring, and always pleased with any information a seaman could extend to them. Well, here was a dilemma! To stop, would spoil my chase, in which most of my passengers were as eager as myself, but to go on, and pass two ladies in such a situation! I passed the word softly to the engineer; desired the mate to sheer alongside the boat carefully; threw the delighted rowers a rope, and before the passengers were fully aware that we had stopped the engines, the ladies were on board, the boat made fast astern, and the Eagle again flying up the Thames. I have those two persons strongly, nay, indelibly stamped upon my mind's eye. The one I had last assisted on board, still held my hand, as she thanked me, with dignified but beautiful expression: 'It is kind of thee, Captain, and we thank thee. We made no sign to thee; having held up our handkerchiefs to the other packets, we did not think we should succeed with thee.' I assured them that I could not have passed them under such circumstances, and called the stewardess to take them below into the ladies' cabin and see to their comfort. They had been well cloaked, and had not suffered so much as I had anticipated.

"The gale had cleared away the rain, and in a very short time they came upon deck again, one of them was Mrs. Fry, and she never lost an opportunity of doing good. I saw her speaking to some of my crew who were looking very serious as she offered them tracts, and some of them cast a side glance at me for my approval or otherwise. I had some little dislike to sects then, which I thank God left me in riper years,—but who could resist this beautiful persuasive, and heavenly-minded woman. To see her, was to love her; to hear her, was to feel as if a guardian angel had bid you follow that teaching which could alone subdue the temptations and evils of this life, and secure a Redeemer's love in eternity! In her you saw all that was attractive in woman, lit up by the bright beams of philanthropy; devoting the prime of life, and health, and personal graces, to her Divine Master's service; and I feel assured that much of the success which attended her missions of mercy, was based upon that awe which such a presence inspired. It was something to possess a countenance which pourtrayed in every look the overflowings of such a heart, and thus as a humble instrument in the hands of Divine Providence, she was indeed highly favoured among women.

"She told me that her companion Mrs. Pryor and herself had been down to Gravesend to take leave of the unfortunate women (convicts) on board a ship bound to the settlements, and gave me so touching a description of their behaviour, that I volunteered to take charge of any thing for her at any time, or render her any service in my power in my voyages. When about to land, her anxiety to make some pecuniary recompense was very great, but I would not allow her to do so. Mrs. Fry never forgot me when she came near our locality; I saw her from time to time, the earthly tabernacle failing, but the same spirit lighting up with animation her untiring energies. It was an honour to know her in this world; may we follow her to the society of the accepted and blessed in that which is to come.

"K. B. MARTIN."

"Ramsgate, *February*, 1847."

On another occasion, Mrs. Fry reached Deptford late in the afternoon of a very tempestuous March day. A female convict ship was under sailing orders for the next morning, and it being after office hours, she went to the private house of Admiral Young, to request him to send her off to the ship. By the time she returned on shore, it was quite dark, and the wind and rain to which she had been exposed seemed to make a little rest and refreshment almost indispensable before she set off homewards. But she resisted all the invitations of Admiral Young and his family to remain with them; assigning as a reason that she had left one of her children seriously ill, to whom she was anxious to hasten back. This little incident left a deep impression on their minds; "that such a claim on a mother's heart, had not been permitted to interfere with that, to which she had pledged her best energies and powers."

The sphere of labour in which Mrs. Fry and her friends were embarked, required not merely the exercise of womanly tenderness, but also of courage and energy; but they found that He, who had so wonderfully cleared a path for them in Newgate, did not desert them in the still more difficult work which was now before them. There was a remarkable adaptation of talents and ability for the execution of the various branches of the undertaking in different members of the Committee; and many who have not come so prominently forward, as those just named, then began their equally useful, though less conspicuous exertions, and may still be found at their posts, with untiring energy, notwithstanding the lapse of time and increase of years, preparing that portion of the convicts' outfit, which is entrusted to the Committee to provide, and carrying out the regulations framed so long ago.

Soon after the ladies first visited these ships, the women ceased to be received on board at Deptford; but the ships were moored for this purpose in a less frequented part of the river, below Woolwich. The mode in which they were brought on board, long continued to be highly objectionable; they arrived from the country in small parties, at irregular intervals, having been conveyed on the outside of stage coaches, by smacks, or hoys, or any conveyance that offered, under the care of a turnkey; often have the ladies, when engaged in their interesting occupation, seen a person of this description come alongside in a wherry with a group of unfortunate creatures under his charge wayworn, and ill, or perhaps a solitary outcast brought upon deck, lamenting her misfortunes in the broad dialect of some far distant county—a small bundle of insufficient clothing being frequently the only preparation for the long voyage before her. In some instances, their children, equally destitute as themselves, accompanied them; in others, their sufferings were increased by sudden separation from their young infants. Often did Mrs. Pryor and her friend and companion, Lydia Irving, quit these scenes, in which they had passed nearly the whole day, not to return to their homes, but to go to Whitehall, to represent such cases, that the necessary letters should be dispatched without the loss of a post, ordering the restoration of these poor nurslings to their mothers, before the ship should sail.

In addition to these evils, the women were almost invariably more or less ironed, sometimes cruelly so. On board the Mary Ann, in 1822, Mrs. Pryor complained that "the prisoners from Lancaster Castle arrived, not merely handcuffed, but with heavy irons on their legs, which had occasioned considerable swelling, and in one instance, serious inflammation." There is in existence a list of the names of women, received in irons, on board the Brothers, which sailed in 1823; it was taken down at the time, by direction of Mrs. Fry, in order that a represention might be made upon the subject to the Government. By this list, it appears that twelve arrived on board handcuffed. Eleven women from Lancaster were sent to the ship "iron-hooped round their legs and arms, and chained to each other. The complaints of these women were very mournful, they were not allowed to get up or down from the coach without the whole being dragged together; some of them had children to carry, they received no help, or alleviation to their suffering." A woman from Cardigan travelled with a hoop of iron round her ancle, until she arrived at Newgate, where the sub-matron insisted on having it taken off. In driving the rivet towards her leg to do so, it gave her so much pain, that she fainted under the operation. She stated, that during a lengthened imprisonment, she wore an iron-hoop round her waist; from that a chain connected with another hoop round her leg above the knee, from which a second chain was fastened to a third hoop round her ancle: in the hoop that went round her waist were, she said, two bolts or fastenings in which her hands were confined when she went to bed at night, which bed was only of straw.

Such were a few of the scenes, into which Mrs. Fry was introduced, in this department of her important labours for the good of the suffering and the sinful of her own sex.

A simple tribute of affectionate remembrance, from a convict who was transported in 1823, on board the Brothers, should be recorded, in referring to that ship: a calabash from the garden of Hester ———. The present referred to has reached Mrs. Fry's family, since she was taken from them; it was accompanied by a message of gratitude. The donor recalled herself to their memory as having been school-mistress in Newgate, and that when she left the prison, Mrs. Fry had given her a pound of lump sugar, and half a pound of tea. Hester ——— has been married twenty years, in New South Wales, is very comfortably established; and wished her former benefactress to be informed, that she has "plenty of pigs and fowls, buys her tea by the chest; and that the patchwork quilt which now covers her bed, was made of the pieces given her by the ladies when she embarked."

The women on board the Brothers seem to have been orderly and well conducted. The Surgeon afterwards wrote as follows:

"Port Jackson, *May*, 1824.

"How steady is the pace of those who have forsaken the evil of their ways; such are the females (at least a great number) who have been under moral discipline in Newgate. I have every reason to be pleased with their exemplary conduct; they submit to restraint, and conform themselves to discipline.

"The force of example and the value of moral discipline have been admirably shown in this voyage; and when I shall lay before you the proofs, you will become more sensible, perhaps, than you have been of the value of the labours in which you and your friends are employed, and may urge others to join in the same good work."

A Missionary, who sailed in the same vessel, confirmed this pleasing statement.

"For your comfort and encouragement, I beg leave to report to you the good conduct and decent behaviour of the Newgate women. That the kind instructions you have given them were not in vain, was very evident from their conduct during the voyage."

On board the convict ships, as at Newgate, the ladies had to contend with difficulties which were integral parts of the system, and which they were wholly unable to remove; it was in both instances, a simple practical endeavour on their part to do what they could under existing circumstances, to obviate evils and promote order and good conduct. In this they were indebted to Admiral Young, of the Dockyard at Deptford, for much kind co-operation and assistance in his department, of fitting out the convict ships. The introduction of patchwork, as an employment for the women, was the happy suggestion of this gentleman, when conversing with Mrs. Fry on the difficulty of supplying them with employment during the voyage, he thought it would furnish the largest amount of occupation in the smallest compass.

She had also frequent communication with Admiral Sir Byam Martin, Comptroller of the Navy from 1813 to 1832. This was an important and onerous office, but one which in consequence of alterations in the constitution of the Admiralty, no longer exists. From him she received courteous and unfailing attention; he appreciated her motives, and considered the arrangements proposed by her, to be not only humane but judicious.

The first advances towards improvement in the female convict ships were made under Sir Byam Martin's direction, and very much was accomplished during the time he continued in office. Amongst the many rough drafts of letters that remain among her papers, the following were addressed to him. One of them refers to an attempt that had been made by a naval surgeon, to discourage the Navy Board from carrying out plans conducive to good order on board convict ships, under the plea that such "comforts," as he called them, did not exist in troop ships.

TO ADMIRAL SIR THOMAS BYAM MARTIN, COMPTROLLER OF THE NAVY.

Mildred's Court, *Third Month, 2nd,* 1820.

Elizabeth Fry cannot feel satisfied that Sir Byam Martin should leave town, without her expressing how much obliged she feels for his prompt and kind attention to the wants of the female convicts, in allowing them more soap and towels for the voyage. It is no small gratification to observe the great attention paid by the Commissioners of the Navy Board to the welfare and reformation of the poor convicts. Elizabeth Fry is glad to find that the building for the women in New South Wales is begun; she wonders that Samuel Marsden, as Chaplain, and Deputy Commissary General A———, should not have been better informed respecting it. Elizabeth Fry has been sorry to find that the Newgate women, on board the Janus, were not orderly. It is not improbable that after the gentle government they had been accustomed to and subdued by; the change to rather a different system, and being some of them the most hardened offenders, may in some degree account for their conduct. It is a fresh proof of the necessity of patience and perseverance; for experience proves that some trials and discouragements must be expected in all our undertakings, even when they are accompanied by the desire of promoting the cause of righteousness, mitigating the sorrows, and lessening the temptations of our fellow-creatures. But in these things, we must endeavour to do our best, and then commit the cause to Him, who can alone grant a blessing upon our labours, and change the heart of man.

To Admiral Sir Thomas Byam Martin.

Plashet, *Seventh Month*, 1820.

Respected Friend,

I trust thou wilt excuse my not returning Doctor ———'s letter before, or answering thy note accompanying it; but numerous engagements have prevented me. Although it has occasioned me some anxiety, as it has led me to fear, that most kindly as thou hast seconded our views, thou hast a little mistaken them. I believe, I may say for all the ladies of our Association, that we do not desire indulgences or increased comforts for convicts, except so far as good and orderly conduct may conduce to it. Some of our prisons we think decidedly too comfortable; and our great wish is, that by employment and instruction, with habits of cleanliness and order, the time of their imprisonment may be a time of reformation, not of indulgence. There is one great encouragement to persevere in the care of prisoners, and in forming proper arrangements for them, that in the best regulated gaols the returns are small indeed in comparison of what they are in others; and even in Newgate, as far as we have been able to calculate from the information received from the former Governor of the Prison, a very small proportion return to the women's side, in comparison to the number before we had the care of them. I believe kindness does more in turning them from the error of their ways than harsh treatment; and that many a poor creature claims a compassion and a tenderness that is little known, but to those who visit prisons, as there are many of whom it may be said, that they were driven into guilt, and only want the way to be made open, to return with joy into the paths of virtue.

With respect to convict ships, government appears to us most liberal in its supplies for the poor convicts, more so indeed than would be right for those under punishment, did not the great length of the voyage, and the frequently delicate state of the health of women and children render it almost necessary; and we are of opinion, that having such arrangements made amongst the women as tends to their good order and reformation would render the voyage less agreeable, and of course less tempting to the profligate, though no doubt more safe to the well-disposed, as it would be instrumental in protecting their remaining innocence and virtue; I believe no female convict ship sails without some of this description in her. Surely, for the welfare of such, both here and hereafter, and the hope that even the worst may be preserved from further evil; as well as the important consideration, that for the sake of the colony, the women's morals should be protected on the voyage, it is worth the effort to make even a convict-ship a place for industry, instruction, and reform. I do not doubt thy kindness of heart on this subject; but we so often find in every good work, that enemies arise, some of them perhaps for want of understanding the subject, that I have feared lest any should discourage either thyself, or any other gentlemen who are interested in the cause of prisoners, from adopting such arrangements as are most likely to promote their good, with that of society at large and the security and safety of the community.

I remain, &c.

E. Fry.

Her efforts to ameliorate the condition of these objects of her care, were not confined to the period of the voyage. A letter written by her to the Right Honourable R. Wilmot Horton, explains her views on the arrangements to be made for them on their arrival in the colonies.

Respected Friend,

In compliance with thy obliging proposal, I take the liberty of stating in writing our views relative to the female convicts in Van Diemen's Land; in order that they may be submitted to the consideration of Lord Bathurst; as we cannot but fee anxious that the care we extend to this degraded class of the community not only in the different prisons, but also on the voyage, should be rendered permanently beneficial, through the co-operation of government in the colonies. In the first place, we deem it expedient that a building be erected at Hobart Town for the reception of female convicts. The building, if raised by the male convicts, and composed of such materials as the country affords, would, it is supposed, be completed greatly within the present estimate. That a respectable and judicious Matron be there stationed, to superintend the whole establishment under the direction of the Governor, or some magistrate appointed by him for that service. That part of the building be appropriated to the use of an adult and girls' school, and that school-mistresses be selected by the Matron from among the reformed prisoners, provided they be sufficiently qualified for the office. That immediately on the arrival of a ship, after it has been visited, either by the Governor, or by some other person appointed by him, for the purpose of inspecting its general condition; the convicts be quietly (and as privately as possible) conducted from the ship to the said building, where the deportment of every prisoner shall be scrutinized with exactness. If the Secretary of State for the Home Department were to direct, that the Surgeon-superintendent should be furnished by the magistrates, with a written account of the general conduct and character of every individual, even previously to their commitment, together with the nature and extent of their offence; we think it would greatly aid the Governor in his decision with regard to the proper disposal of the prisoners in the colony. That those who merit a favourable report be selected, and allowed to be taken into service, by the respectable inhabitants, under such restraints and regulations as may be considered needful. The others to remain confined; receiving at the same time suitable instruction, and employment, until they evince sufficient amendment in habits and dispositions, to warrant the grant of a similar indulgence; and we conceive that much benefit might result, if some of the regulations mentioned in the new Act of Parliament, relative to prisons were enforced in this colony, and in New South Wales. We would also propose that a sufficient supply of strong and decent clothing, (not parti-coloured) be provided for them during the voyage, to be put on when they enter the ship, in exchange for their own; of which an inventory shall be immediately taken by a female officer, and given with the clothes to the Surgeon, (in the presence of their respective owners,) who shall carefully keep them in reserve, and deliver them to the Matron of the prison, to which they are destined, who shall receive the same in presence of the prisoners, and shall at the same times, see, if they tally correctly with the inventories. And upon their discharge from prison, but not before, she shall restore them to their proper owners. We consider that it would be a great advantage in the voyage, and more especially whilst lying in the river, that the women should wear a simple uniform dress, and we think it *indispensable* for establishing order, and for enforcing the needful regulations on board the ship, that a Matron be stationed constantly there, whilst they remain in the river—to attend to their clothing, &c., and to search their female visitors, in order that no spirituous liquors, or any thing else that is improper be introduced. Could a person in that capacity accompany them during the voyage, it would no doubt be highly useful. We are pleased to understand, that the Factory in Paramatta, has more than cleared its expenses, during the last year; as the interest we feel in the welfare of the colonies, induces us, not only to desire the religious and moral improvement of the population at large, but in all our plans we wish to keep in view such a system, as shall eventually prove the most economical to government, as well as the most beneficial to the Colonial States.

In consequence of thy friendly encouragement, I have ventured thus freely to offer with submission our sentiments; we are fully aware that much has been accomplished, that many of our requests have been granted with obliging readiness, and we shall feel our sense of gratitude much increased, if Lord Bathurst will condescend to peruse these remarks, and to act in compliance, as far as his judgment can approve, and his authority enforce.

Believe me, to remain
With respect and regard,
Thy obliged friend,
Elizabeth Fry.

To these, and similar communications, prompt and polite consideration was almost invariably paid; and in many instances, the suggestions they contained, met with the cordial support and co-operation of those to whom they were addressed. It was not for the sinners and outcasts alone that Mrs. Fry pleaded; whatever she believed likely to promote the real good of the people, and the cause of religion upon earth, found in her a ready advocate. To the poor and needy her ear was always open, and she would "humble herself," for so she felt it, to ask that for them of her family and friends, which it was not in her own power to bestow. All classes found in her a kind adviser and a warm sympathiser in their sorrows and their joys.

THE DUCHESS OF ——— TO MRS. FRY.

"*June* 28*th*, 1823.

"You, dear madam, were so kind as to call upon me some days ago, I was most unfortunately out, and missed you; will you not have the kindness to try again? I cannot express in writing, half the pleasure your last visit gave me. The poor are not the only beings to whom you bring hope and comfort, whom you strengthen, when you hope they are in the right; and whom you would assist to recover the way of life, did you see (which their own feelings, prejudices, temper, or sufferings might blind them to,) that they were going wrong. If you would let me have a line, to tell me when I might hope to see you, I would take care not to be again disappointed. I leave town the last week in July.

"Believe me, your most truly obliged,

"———"

Plashet, Fifth Month, 3rd.—There are times of encouragement and building up, and of discouragement and treading down. I remarkably experienced the latter state yesterday, as it respects the prison cause; I met with ingratitude amongst the prisoners such as I never remember before, for generally their gratitude has been quite remarkable. It called for patience, yet candour and firmness. Some reflections also that I found had been cast upon it, by one who understood the subject, tried me much. Still, on the prison subject, I have this secret feeling which wonderfully upholds me under the difficulties that may arise; in the first place, I believe I have been providentially brought into it, not of my own seeking; and secondly, that if He, who in a remarkable manner, has hitherto appeared to bless the work, should be pleased for a season to permit a cloud to pass over it, that is nothing to me. I have always considered the work not mine, and have desired that self may have no reputation in it; if trials of this kind come they may be for our good who are engaged in it, and for our humiliation, and for an exercise of charity towards those whom we have sought to serve. I had also the sorrow, yesterday, of seeing dear Priscilla Buxton who was here, taken ill. I took her home, with real anxiety on her account, and with some on account of my own children, as the medical man said her complaint was very catching. I desire to cast my care upon the Lord and to submit my cause to Him, and to His tender mercy and loving kindness, trusting that He will still bless our labours amongst the poor prisoners, and quiet their perturbed spirits; also that dearest Priscilla will soon revive again, and our dear children not materially suffer.

8th.—The poor prisoners quite come down, and very sorry for what they have done. Priscilla better—it proved no serious illness. But from various causes my spirit is much pressed down within me; partly from an unusual press of very weighty engagements, and discouraging circumstances at the same time arising. Still I repine not, but put my trust in Him who can alone help me, and has hitherto made a way for me. Lord, undertake for Thy unworthy servant, and make way for her, where she may at present see little or no way. Continue, if it be consistent with Thy holy will, to be with her, and bless her in her deeds.

Plashet, 31*st.*—Since I last wrote, I have passed through a scene of deep affliction, in attending dear Mary Hanbury. I was called to her on Third day, the 6th; after great illness, she died on the 16th, leaving her beloved father (William Allen), husband, and helpless infant. I had to drink the bitter cup with the afflicted in an unusual degree, so as to bring me very low in myself, out of which state I have not fully risen, but am rather sunk in mind and body. I have, however, the consolation of believing, that I was a help and comfort to my sweet and dear young friend, whose remembrance is precious to me, so was her company, I think I may say to the last, her spirit appearing to overflow with love, joy, and peace. She having, I believe, kept the faith, finished her course, and fought the good fight. I have since attended great part of the Yearly Meeting, and the Prison Meeting; in all, to me a low time. The Prison Meeting and cause, more in a valley to my view, than I think I have yet known since I entered the work, yet I have faith that it will again rise. The Yearly Meeting also, a low time, as it respects myself. But the pressure of engagements that I have had, together with the sorrow I had partaken in, and my almost innumerable occupations have been as if they hurried, and almost overwhelmed my natural mind. I am ready to say, spiritually, Where am I? What am I about? Am I sick or in health? Going backwards or forwards? Lord! Thou knowest that the desires of my heart are still living after Thyself, and that nothing satisfies it, but being filled with the fulness that cometh from Thee.

Plashet, Eighth Month, 7th.—We have lately had much company, which leads to handsome dinners, and that sort of excitement which I feel painful on account of my family; but I find it very difficult to act rightly under some of these circumstances. Oh! for more ability, in the power, and in the spirit to maintain the standard of truth and righteousness in my own house, in all things; so that others may be induced to do the same.

Earlham, Tenth Month, 1st.—My beloved husband left me this morning for London, and I am here with nine children and my little grandson. Since I last wrote, the face of things brightened. I went to Bristol to attend the Quarterly Meeting there, accompanied by my brother, Joseph John Gurney, and my sister E. F.; we left home on Sixth day, the 11th of last month, and returned on Fifth day, the 17th. In this short time we travelled about two hundred and eighty miles, visited the Meeting at Bath, and the Bristol Quarterly Meeting, held two Public Meetings, visited the prison, attended to the magistrates and committee; visited Hannah More, my cousin Priscilla H. Gurney, and several more. Much was accomplished in a short time, although not without deep exercise of spirit, and considerable fatigue of body. We were treated with the utmost kindness wherever our lot was cast; and what was above all, in our various engagements, we have reason humbly to trust that the presence of our Lord was with us. I returned home very poor in spirit, and things pressed so hard upon me that I felt almost ready to give up coming here. But since my arrival, I have been comforted in being with my tenderly beloved brothers and sisters. They are, indeed, near to my heart, their kindness has comforted me, and it has been refreshing to be with them. The last few days, my husband and I have been at Cromer, and paid an interesting visit to my much-loved brothers and sisters there. I was at different times engaged religiously amongst them, and help was granted me in these services. I feel unworthy and unfit, and find that there is need of close, cleansing, baptisms of spirit, to make me in any degree ready thus to espouse the best of causes. I am much struck in having all my children, but one, now here; several of them grown up; what marvellous changes have I witnessed since I first knew this place; wonders indeed, have been done for me spiritually and naturally—how have I been raised up, as out of the dust! I am surrounded by a numerous, fine, and healthy offspring; one only taken from me, and that one with a peculiar evidence of going to an everlasting and blessed inheritance. Spiritually also how has mercy been shown me; has not the beloved of my soul said, "live," and how has He been with me in many tribulations, and sanctified many blessings. Indeed, I have found that my Lord is a wonder-working God, and has manifested himself to be to my soul, "Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace." What can I render for His unspeakable benefits? Lord, in Thy unmerited mercy continue to be with and bless Thy servant, whose hope is in Thee. Grant also Thy grace to her children, to love, serve, and obey Thee, that her God may be their God, her Saviour their Saviour, and her Comforter their Comforter. Be with, visit, and bless her husband, brothers and sisters, and children's children yet unborn, as well as the sweet grandchild, now granted her. Amen.

Plashet, 18*th*.—I can hardly express through all, what a sweet, and cheering feeling has covered my heart, upon once more being here, surrounded by most of my family.

27*th*.—Although under some oppression and sorrow of spirit, I believe it right for me to make a stir in our parish, about the Bible Society, for the sake of the rich and the poor. I do not do this, supposing that I can do much in it myself, but thinking that others may be set to work. I am quite convinced that this sort of intercourse between the rich and poor is very profitable, and that, uniting together, in any degree, to promote the one great object, the real good of others, is in itself beneficial; and breaks down many walls of partition between the two classes. If, dearest Lord, it promote Thy cause, make it manifest to be Thy work, and bless our labours in it, to the good of this parish and neighbourhood.

Plashet, Eleventh Month, 24th, 1823.—Since I last wrote, I have been much engaged in the parish, amongst the poor, which is certainly satisfactory to me, and I have met with much encouragement amongst them. I have also met with unexpected difficulty, discouragement, and opposition, to my real surprise. Yet I trust this may be blessed to myself, in making self of no reputation in the work, and leading me to feel the foundation upon which I act, that all may be simply done as a duty to my neighbour called for from me by the Lord. It is rather difficult even in these laudable works (for so they are in themselves), to be unruffled by the various views of our fellow mortals; and to maintain the spirit of love and charity towards those, who not only view things differently from ourselves, but show towards us an improper feeling. I truly desire to be kept in the spirit of love; and to endeavour by the meekness of wisdom, as far as it is granted to me, to win over my neighbours to what I believe to be a right thing for our parish. Ah, for a little help, dearest Lord, in this, as well as many other callings, and let this labour of love tend to establish some in the ways of righteousness, and to lead others to turn from the evil of their way. Preserve thy servants engaged in it in a humble, patient, diligent, and persevering frame of mind.

Plashet, 10th.—Upon reading the second chapter of Deuteronomy, I felt this verse so much the acknowledgment of my heart, that I transcribe it: "For the Lord thy God hath blessed thee in all the works of thy hand, he knoweth thy walking through this great wilderness, these forty years the Lord thy God hath been with thee, thou hast lacked nothing." Although all the works of my hand may not yet fully have appeared blessed; yet upon many, may I not say most, a peculiar blessing seems to have rested. Lord, continue to be with Thy unworthy servant, that trusteth in Thee, and let her not want that which may be needful for body, soul, or spirit. Grant this petition, dearest Lord, not on account of any merit of her's, but for the sake of Him who gave Himself for her. Amen.

CHAPTER XII.

1824. Journey to Worcester—Letter to a daughter—Serious illness—British Ladies' Society—Establishment of Manor Hall, Asylum and School of Discipline at Chelsea—Brighton—District Visiting Society there—Books for Preventive men, near Brighton—Letter from Dr. Steinkopff—Letter from Lieutenant C——, and his men—Dagenham—Return to Plashet—Letter to her daughter—Visit to Brighton—Death of her aunt, Mrs. Gurney—Death of Samuel Hoare, Esq.—Letter from her sister, Mrs. Hoare—Marriage of her eldest son—Autumn at Dagenham—Journey into Cornwall and Devonshire.

Plashet, Second Month, 7th, 1824.—I have once more a few minutes to express my feelings, and present situation here. My mind and time are very much absorbed at home, where many things deeply occupy my heart and head. To do right in my many relative duties is very difficult; how deeply I feel my short comings in them! and yet I fervently desire to do my best. ——— has my prayers much more often than the day. Lord, help this dear child by Thy Spirit, guide him by Thy counsel, and save him by that salvation that cometh by Christ. And for my sweet dear William, so visit him, and influence him by Thy anointing, that he may become a vessel of honour, fully calculated and prepared to show forth Thy praise. Ah! dearest Lord, bless the lads; and above all things I ask of Thee, far above all temporal good, sanctify them and fit them to exalt and magnify Thy great and ever-excellent name. Although my prayers may now be raised, particularly for my two sons, feeling them more exposed to the world than many of the others, yet my fervent petitions are very often raised for all my children. My household also has my anxious solicitude; desiring amongst them all, to do justly, to love mercy, and walk humbly, and also to act the part of a really kind mistress, by not countenancing their faults, and by keeping up a proper authority. My public concerns are at this time very pressing, for I have to remove prejudices in the minds of many, which prevent ladies visiting prisons; other things also press at times, almost too much upon me; so that my mind feels really worn. Indeed it is my faith, that were there not a principle that enlivens, strengthens, and calms my soul, I could not possibly attend to all that comes before me, without being really confused and brought down by it. I may truly say it is often astonishing to myself, how help is laid upon One who is mighty; who is willing to assist His dependent children, and enables them to get through that, which I believe to their natural powers alone would be impossible. How remarkably do I at times know my spirit to be refreshed, and instead of being worn down, "my youth renewed like the eagles;" all fresh and lively again and ready to "go forward."

21st.—My mind continues almost too full; at times I fear that it will be overstrained. Oh! for a quiet spirit and humble dependence; remembering that I am but a frail instrument, and however others may estimate my services, and therefore require them of me, yet I must recollect Him, who can equally well carry on His work with them, or without them. The burden and perplexity of the opposition to improvement in prisons, is almost too much for me; it is so much against my nature to take my own defence, or even that of the cause in which I am interested into my own hands. Oh! for a little of the best wisdom, and influence of the Holy Spirit to walk circumspectly amongst all men; wise as the serpent, harmless as the dove, and however I may be treated, to be myself full of charity.

Plashet, *Third Month*, 11*th.*—I am now, thanks be to my gracious Lord and Master, nearly recovered from a short, though severe, attack of illness. I have felt for some little time past very delicate, as if I were really overdone, and as if I could not go on much longer; these feelings increased so much, that it was with difficulty I rose, and came down to breakfast on Second day morning. I sat the reading, and a few minutes afterwards fainted quite away. I was completely laid low, and hardly able to keep awake half an hour all day, accompanied with other unpleasant symptoms. I could but feel how soon we are brought very low; it was I think the most sudden plunge into real illness that I ever experienced. It brought many things home to my mind. First, a desire that I might be more willing to suffer, and to die; also more ready. Secondly, a fear lest my heart was too much occupied *in doing*, and with the things of this life. Thirdly, the want of more constant, more deep and living faith. As to the prospect before me, of paying a religious visit to Friends of Worcester and Birmingham, it did not harass me, although, with my sister Elizabeth, I had obtained a certificate from our Monthly Meeting for that purpose. I was enabled to commit this cause, and then leave it. It appeared that I had to make this sacrifice of my will, to be ready to leave all, for my dear Master's sake; and I am glad I was enabled to do it, whether the sacrifice be accepted or not. I have a very low estimate of our instrumentality, for I know that there is a Power that can equally work with or without His instruments. And even if He may be pleased to draw their hearts in love to some afar off, and try their willingness to attend to His call; yet he may fulfil all without them, equally visit His people, and equally as He may see meet, grant the reward of peace.

14th.—If I should go, I think I never left home for such a service in a state of greater, if so great reduction. Still I believe I must go in faith, trusting in Him, who I humbly hope has put me forth, and will go before us, if this offering be required at our hands, which I cannot help believing that it is through all our discouragements, and the many clouds that have obscured the prospect.

LETTER TO ONE OF HER DAUGHTERS.

Warwick, *Third Month, 19th,* 1824.

My Dearest Katharine,

Here we are so far on our way; it is wonderful to me how we have gone on. On Third day evening, when we arrived at Worcester, I was faint, but still went to the Meeting of Ministers and Elders, where I felt help very near, but I was in a delicate state of health. We went to Dr. D——'s, where we were most kindly cared for. On Fourth day, I passed through deep and great exercise of mind, and weakness of body, but that Power that has so often helped me and strengthened me, enabled me to go through all, to the great relief of my mind; but in the evening I felt very unwell, so much so, that I thought if better in the morning it would be surprising; however, I was rather better, but there was such a party to meet us at breakfast, clergy, methodists, &c., &c. We had after breakfast a solemn reading, my brother Samuel read, he has been a comfort indeed to me. We then proceeded to the prison; I should think thirty or forty with us, magistrates, and others. After going over the prison, it was proposed we should have all the prisoners, men and women, and the company, collected in the chapel, which we dared not refuse. Picture us in a large chapel, full of almost all descriptions of people. Samuel, Elizabeth, and I, besides two clergymen and magistrates at the upper end. Samuel read the fifteenth chapter of Luke. Then I spoke to them, afterwards my dear sister. It finished in prayer, and was a very solemn time; much satisfaction was expressed by all parties. I think I am really better, but far from my usual health. We have had two Meetings to-day. I am sorry to say I find the post is gone; but I must say farewell, in much very near and dear love. I long to tell you much more.

I am thy nearly attached mother,
Elizabeth Fry.

Plashet, Third Month, 29th.—We returned home last Fifth day, having accomplished the duty we had in prospect, to our own peace, and I trust to the edification of those amongst whom our lot has been cast. I continued very unwell the whole journey, and what with exercise of mind, and real illness of body, I think I have seldom known such a time; nor do I ever remember being so helped through the different services that I was brought into. Visiting gaols, attending two Quarterly Meetings, and many not Friends; one occasion in Worcester gaol; one large Public Meeting, the first I ever had of that description; and many other Meetings: but the way I was raised up, as from the dust, was wonderful to myself, enabled to speak with power, and in the Quarterly Meetings to go from service to service. It was indeed a remarkable evidence, that there is in man something beyond the natural part, that when that is in its lowest, weakest state, helps and strengthens; none can tell what its power is but those who submit to it. I now feel fully called to rest. I gratefully remember the abundant kindness shown me upon my journey. Greater enlargement of my heart in love do I never remember, or to have met more from others. I have been permitted to feel throughout this illness, at times, very sweet consolation. A state of rest, as if the sense of pain and sorrow was taken away from body and mind, and now and then almost like a peep into the joys of the Kingdom.

Plashet, Fourth Month, 10*th.*—I feel remarkably unable to enter any active service. I know that power spiritually and naturally are not at my command, and if in mercy it should be again granted me, may I in humility, simplicity, and faithfulness, let my day's work keep pace with my day.

Blackheath, Fifth Month.—I have a dear son and daughter willing and ready to take me in, and do every thing they can for me, and who so well accommodate me.

How tender mercy is shown to me spiritually, strength sufficient given to bear the burden of my illness, although at times heavy. How my pains have been mitigated, when at times they have felt too much for me, and my secret prayers answered, by relief coming in the needful time.

First day, 15*th.*—Yesterday, after a very weak and faint morning, I attended our Ladies' British Society Meeting;* it was surprising, even to myself, to find what had been accomplished! How many prisons are now visited by ladies, and how much is done for the inhabitants of the prison-house, and what a way is made for their return from evil. It is marvellous in my eyes, that a poor instrument should have been the apparent cause of setting forward such a work. Deep as my interest has certainly been in the destitute and forlorn; yet how much more, both in time and heart, have I been occupied with my own family. I fancy that my natural affections are very acute, and that if it had not pleased a kind Providence to lead me into some other services, and in His tender mercy to bless me in them, I think there would at times have been great danger of my being pressed down out of measure by home cares.

---

* Ladies' British Society for Promoting the Reformation of Female Prisoners.

The Meeting alluded to, was the third anniversary of the "Ladies' British Society for Promoting the Reformation of Female Prisoners." It had been formed as a central point for communication, and for mutual assistance between the various associations engaged in visiting female prisoners in different parts of England; also for the purpose of corresponding with those persons on the continent, who interested themselves in these subjects.

The Duchess of Gloucester honoured the Society with her patronage; many distinguished names were found amongst its vice-patronesses—some of these ladies had visited the prisons in their own neighbourhoods, and the Duchess of Gloucester when on a journey with the Princess Augusta, had condescended personally to inspect the state of a prison on their way. On the present occasion, Mrs. Fry and her friends were encouraged by the fact, that some of the arrangements which had been adopted by them, and found to be peculiarly useful, had become the law of the land, and were enforced in the principal prisons of the kingdom, in consequence of an Act of Parliament passed during the preceding session. The most important of these regulations was, the appointment of female officers; increased means afforded for religious instruction; and compulsory employment.

The Convict Ship Committee was, and still is, a branch of this Society.

The necessity of asylums for the reception of discharged prisoners claimed at this time the attention of the Ladies' Association. The report of the year 1824, mentions the Shelter for this purpose, at Dublin, and a Refuge at Liverpool. The establishment of similar institutions quickly followed in Great Britain, and on the continent of Europe.

In 1822, a small house for sheltering some of the most hopeful cases of discharged prisoners, was opened in Westminster, under the name of Tothill Fields Asylum. It owed its existence to the Christian benevolence of one lady—Miss Neave. She has consecrated her time and purse to this important object, which was first suggested to her mind during a drive with Mrs. Fry, thus related by herself:—“A morning's expedition with dear Mrs. Fry made me at once resolve to add my help, if ever so feebly, to the good cause. I distinctly remember the one observation made. I can call to mind at this moment, the look, and tone, so peculiar, so exclusively her's who spoke—‘Often have I known the career of a promising young woman, charged with a first offence, to end in a condemned cell! Was there but a Refuge for the young offender, my work would be less painful.’ That one day's conversation upon these subjects, and in this strain, laid the foundation of our prisoners' home.”

The inmates, at first, were only four in number; in 1824, they had increased to nine; at the present time, under the name of “The Royal Manor Hall Asylum,” it contains fifty young women; and since its first establishment, six hundred and sixty-seven have been received within its walls.

There was another class of persons who claimed the attention of the ladies of the British Society at this meeting. The vicious and neglected little girls, so numerous in London, early hardened in crime, who, whether they had or had not been imprisoned, had no chance of reformation at home; yet were too young to be placed with advantage in any existing asylum. Before the next anniversary, a School of Discipline, for the reception of such children was opened at Chelsea, where, withdrawn from their former associates, they might be trained to orderly and virtuous habits. The idea first occurred to Mrs. Fry, when conversing in the yard at Newgate, with her friend Mrs. Benjamin Shaw, on the extreme difficulty of disposing of some very juvenile prisoners about to be discharged. She then begged Mrs. Shaw to consider the subject, and to draw up some plan for the purpose. This lady immediately applied herself to the important work, nor did she relax in her exertions, until she had seen the School of Discipline firmly established, and its value tested by the experience of years.

Mrs. Fry was anxious that Government should adopt this Institution, for receiving abandoned female children, and addressed Sir Robert Peel, then Secretary of State, on the subject. He warmly encouraged the design as one "capable of effecting much good." He recommended its being supported by the subscriptions of individuals unconnected with public establishments, and enclosed a liberal donation from himself.

Both these Institutions continue to be very important auxiliaries of the British Ladies' Society, receiving considerable pecuniary assistance from its funds, in consideration of the many individuals placed in them, by its sub-committee for the Patronage of Discharged Female Prisoners.

But neither these, nor any existing establishments, adequately meet the needs of the many applicants discharged from the London prisons ; and until some further refuge for such is established, the labour bestowed upon them, during their imprisonment, must remain, in too many instances, an incomplete work, whether begun by the chaplain, the officers of the gaol, or the ladies of the Visiting Association. Earnestly and unflinchingly did Mrs. Fry urge this topic. She grieved to know, that persons not utterly hardened, not wholly given over to depravity, who desired to retrace the downward road along which they had travelled, continually found themselves without resource, without encouragement, exposed to the condemnation of the world, or renewed temptations to vice. She felt, that until every unhappy fallen one, without exception, had the opportunity afforded her of repentance and amendment of life, England, as a Christian country, had not fulfilled the injunction of our blessed Lord : "*As* I have loved you that ye also love one another."

Brighton, Fifth Month, 18th.—We arrived this evening, my health continuing very delicate. I have been induced to come here, partly by finding my weakness increase, and partly to oblige my husband, and others; although it is on many accounts much to my regret, leaving my dear children at Blackheath, where I was just arrived with great part of my family. I have also much felt leaving the dear Friends at the Yearly Meeting; still I trust we have done right in coming, and can now, only commend myself and my all, absent and present, to Him who alone can keep and preserve us; and if it please Him to bless this measure for my recovery, may thankful hearts be our portion.

First day, 23rd.—I am once more away from Meeting on this day; but my strength does not appear sufficient, to venture to sit one. It certainly has, until the last few days, been upon the decline; I cannot but feel how unworthy I am of the many comforts that surround me, I am indeed most abundantly and agreeably supplied. It is a favour to be able so greatly to enjoy the beauties of nature as I do; seldom so ill, but I receive pleasure, and I trust profit from them; the sea is now an almost hourly source of pleasure to me, when I am awake, as is my garden when at home. I feel this the most when from being in a weak state, important things and the business of life do not occupy me so much, and my mind and body appear called upon to rest. I felt this morning as I sometimes have before, about the time people generally assemble to worship, (when I have been sitting in solemn silence poorly, and alone;) *peculiar unity* with, and sweet love for, the members of the Church of Christ, not only that part of it to which I belong, but to others also. I do believe there is a communion of spirits, that neither separation of person, nor difference of sentiment can obstruct, if we abide in a watchful waiting state, and that so many of the members of the living Church, being engaged in waiting upon, and worshipping our God, through Christ Jesus our Lord, spreads a good and refreshing influence which extends even to those who are absent.

Sixth Month, 6th.—Having passed through a time of deep distress, oh may I profit by it! May I now in real simplicity of heart trust Him in all things, who knows what is best for me, and seek to turn from myself, and keep my eye single to my Lord and Saviour; may it be my meat and drink, to do and suffer, according to His ever blessed will.

Seventh Month, 9th.—Through fluctuations, I have been favoured gradually to recover my health in great degree;—the cause of thankfulness in being relieved from so painful an illness, has been much more than I can express, or I fear, properly estimate. I have several times attended Meeting to my peace and satisfaction. I have very much entered life again, and been a good deal occupied in endeavouring to form a charity, for the good of the poor. I have feared for myself in it, lest it should overdo me; and I have feared for my best welfare, in so soon being brought into contact with so many persons and once more taking a prominent part in the world; but if the thing be right, I trust that I shall not suffer, and that it will prosper to the good and comfort of the poor, and to the real advantage and edification of those, who are willing to give up their time and money for their advantage. How does it require to dwell low in spirit, for self, to take neither part nor glory in things of this kind.

During her stay at Brighton, Mrs. Fry was often distressed by the multitude of applicants for relief. This was not confined to beggars by profession, who infested the streets, following carriages and foot-passengers with clamorous importunity, but extended to the resident poor, many of whom had acquired the habit of asking assistance at the houses, not only of the inhabitants, but the visitors to the place. It was difficult for the former, but almost impossible for the latter, to discover their true condition, whether their poverty was real or assumed; and if real, whether caused by improvidence and idleness on their own part, or whether the result of misfortune and providential infliction.

Not long before, she had made the acquaintance of Dr. Chalmers, and had learned something of his views as to the best method of assisting the lower classes, and encouraging them in habits of self dependence, industry, and forethought. He had explained to her his experience of Provident Societies, and the advantage of small deposits being made by the working classes when earning any thing beyond a bare sufficiency, for the time of sickness or old age. This subject had arrested her attention, as one of great importance; for she saw that very much might be done towards ameliorating the condition of the lower orders, by arousing them to exertion, and teaching them how to assist themselves. But whilst she perceived all the advantages that would arise from such a system, she was not prepared to yield one point to those political economists, who theorised on the wants of the poor, as a mechanical principle, which should be left to find its own level. Her heart was solemnly impressed with the duty of almsgiving—of "providing for the sick and needy," in the literal acceptation of the words. "The poor" were, to her feelings, a sacred trust committed to the faithful and obedient, to receive at their hands, tenderness, consideration, and relief, as the case might be. She considered the commands of Scripture to be imperative; and the privilege to be a high one, which permitted him to whom the Lord had given more abundantly, "to do good, and to communicate, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

Her mind being occupied by this subject, and she in a remarkable manner possessing the quality of bringing good into action, and practically applying principles, the truth of which had commended themselves to her own mind; it was but a probable result of the mendicancy, poverty, and imposture, she witnessed at Brighton, that the information she had acquired from Dr. Chalmers should occur to her as affording a probable remedy for these evils.

In a country village, we generally find the squire, the clergyman, and their families to be the medium of almsgiving. Children are educated, clothing clubs established, and the sick supplied with those little comforts so important to them. In suburban districts the resident gentry frequently unite in caring for their poorer neighbours. Of later years, field-gardens, or allotments, have been introduced; arrangements by which time is available for profit, and the hours of the labourer, which he is entitled to employ for his own advantage, may produce to him a species of capital.

In most towns, in manufacturing districts, and where masses of people congregate, the case is different. There the most importunate, the least diffident—the mother of a family, who prefers gossiping and wandering about, to the care of her home and children, obtains the almsgiving of the more wealthy. Encouragement is held out to begging and improvidence, for the giver, satisfied in having "relieved the poor," asks not whether his charity has tended to good, or increased evil. Some may inquire into the circumstances and character of the applicant, before extending relief, but this is the exception, not the rule; and the same thing may occur, as in a case of absolute imposture, the most intrusive obtain assistance, whilst the sufferer, who shrinks from begging, who struggles to exist upon his own resources, has nothing beyond the coarse hard fare of poverty, unfit for illness, and unlikely to induce restoration to health.

Brighton appeared exactly the field for working a District Visiting Society. There was no lack of benevolent feeling, and abounding affluence was to be found there; but the former was frequently misdirected and the latter misapplied. A Provident Society had been in operation for some years, but this touched only one part of the evil.

It was no easy matter to unite in the same object, persons wholly differing in opinion, especially on religious matters; but without co-operation the desired end could not be effected, and after some delays, and much discouragement, the Brighton District Society was established, under the patronage of the

Bishop of Chichester. The Earl of Chichester President; the Dean of Salisbury, the Rev. H. M. Wagner, Viscount Molesworth, Sir Edward Kerrison, and Mr. Kemp, amongst the Vice-Presidents. The objects of the Society were stated to be, "The encouragement of industry and frugality among the poor, by visits at their own habitations; the relief of real distress, whether arising from sickness or other causes; and the prevention of mendicity and imposture."

In January, 1835, the First Annual Report was given to the public. The Society embraced two objects: "The relief of real distress, and a system of small deposits, upon the plan of Savings Banks, which was encouraged by a present premium, in order to induce the labouring classes to try to lay by a little store for their own necessities." To accomplish the desired ends, Visitors were found or offered themselves to go from house to house, and become acquainted personally with the character and circumstances of their occupants.

"The smallest pittance, as a deposit for rent, or clothing, or fuel, by being often repeated, may prove to the poorest, that it is within their power effectually to help themselves, by such habits of frugality and resolution." The personal intercourse of the Visitors with the poor, is a most important branch of the subject, it tends to good-will on both sides; it induces order and cleanliness amongst the visited, and a feeling of kindness and interest in the heart of the Visitor.

A subscription was raised for assisting cases of distress, and for the purpose of adding something to the savings of the depositors. This premium upon the savings of the poor must be considered as a very doubtful measure, and only to be tolerated in the out-set, to induce them to begin the habit. To be permanent, any institution of this nature must be self-supporting; and the lesson is not taught, unless the depositor finds the advantages of his own saving and economy, without help or assistance from others.

To enable the Visitors to afford judicious relief where really required, and to become in this manner the almoners of those, whose circumstances preclude the possibility of personal investigation is a very different question, and one which recommends itself to the approval of every reflecting mind. In a town, divided amongst District Visitors, relief is equalized. A few are not relieved by many, but the many by the whole. Five years afterwards, an active member of the Committee, amongst other particulars, says:—"*Brighton, November 10th,* 1830.—The families visited are improved in habits of cleanliness. This and similar things, follow from the regular intercourse of ranks. The higher are not degraded, but the lower are raised." From this period, District Societies and the benefits they confer, became a subject of great interest to Mrs. Fry, she assisted in their formation in many places, and as opportunity offered, recommended them as useful and desirable in towns and populous districts.

In Mrs. Fry's illness at Brighton she was liable to distressing attacks of faintness, during the night and early morning, when it was frequently necessary to take her to an open window for the refreshment of the air. Whether through the quiet grey dawn of the summer's morning, or by the fitful gleams of a tempestuous sky, one living object always presented itself to her view on these occasions; the solitary blockade-man* pacing the shingly beach. It first attracted her attention, and soon excited her sympathy, for the service was one of hardship and of danger.

In the course of a drive, passing near a station, she stopped the carriage and spoke to one of the men; he civilly informed her, they were not allowed to hold any communication with strangers, and declined further conversation. Afraid that by having spoken to him, she might, inadvertently, be the means of bringing him into difficulty, she gave him her card for his commanding officer; desiring that he might be informed she had spoken to the man, in order to inquire a few particulars respecting the state of the men, and of their wives and children, whom she saw about their dwellings. This little occurrence had almost passed from her mind, when a few days afterwards the subject was renewed by a visit from the Naval Lieutenant in command of the Station where she had stopped. He came to answer her inquiries in person. The service was one that entailed much privation, both on officers and men; the stations were often placed in dreary and inaccessible places. From the very nature of the service they were precluded from communication with the inhabitants, amongst whom it was exceedingly unpopular; constantly harassed with nocturnal watching, exposed to danger, both from weather and affrays with smugglers, they might almost be said to be in a state of blockade themselves. What Mrs. Fry heard, only confirmed her desire to do something for their moral and religious good. The lieutenants in command of several of the neighbouring posts warmly seconded her views. Considering the nature and regulations of the Coast Blockade, almost the only thing that could be done, was to supply the people with Bibles and useful books. In furtherance of this purpose, she applied to the Bible Society, whose liberal response was conveyed in the following letter from one of its Secretaries:—

---

* Now called the "Coast Guard," or "Preventive Service," for the detection of smuggling.

THE REV. DOCTOR STEINKOPFF TO MRS. FRY, BRIGHTON.

"Savoy, *July* 12*th*, 1824.

"My Esteemed and Dear Friend,

"I have received your truly kind and affectionate letter this morning, and immediately communicated its contents to the

Printing Sub-Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, which happened to meet at Earl Street. They have unanimously resolved to transmit fifty Bibles and twenty-five New Testaments to the Brighton Auxiliary, with a request to place them at your disposal, for distribution among the men employed in the Preventive Service. In general, we have found cheap sale preferable to gratuitous distribution, but if in consideration of all the peculiar circumstances of the above-mentioned men, you should judge it most desirable to present the copies as a donation to them, you are at liberty so to do.

"Mrs. Steinkopff and myself, thank you most cordially for every expression of kindness, and every assurance of Christian affection. We rejoice most sincerely to hear that your health is improving, and we unite with the members of your dear family, as well as with all your friends, in the humble prayer that it may please the Great Disposer of all human affairs, long to spare your useful life, and soon to restore you to perfect health and strength. But whatever He may be pleased to send—health or sickness, prosperity or adversity, life or death, this we know, that God is love; and that all things must work together for good to them that love God. May His love be shed abroad into our hearts by the Holy Ghost. May it be our delight as His redeemed people to serve Him without fear; in holiness and righteousness before Him, all the days of our life.

"We live in most important and eventful times; the work of God is enlarging, His kingdom is advancing; far distant nations hear the joyful sound, sinners are converted, the people of God provoke each other to love and good works, one Christian and benevolent institution is rising after the other, great good is accomplished; but Satan is also stirred up, his emissaries are busy, he is sowing the tares of discord, fanatics arise, the Roman Catholic Hierarchy endeavours to regain its lost ground; a new Papal rescript has appeared against Bible societies, yet, let this be our motto, 'If God be for us, who can be against us.'

"I remain my dear friend,
"Yours respectfully,
"C. F. A. STEINKOPFF."

The distribution of these books was a welcome office to her, to whom it was intrusted ; it brought her into agreeable and interesting communication with some of the officers as well as men stationed in the neighbourhood of Brighton. Her endeavours to serve them were received with openness, and responded to with the warmth and simplicity of the sailor character—a communication a few months afterwards proved that the benefit was likely to be lasting.

FROM LIEUTENANT C———, R. N.

"Salt Dean Watch-House, *March* 22*nd*, 1825.

"My dear Madam,

"Happy am I in being able to make you acquainted with the unexpected success I have met with, in my attempt to forward amongst the seamen employed on the coast, your truly laudable and benevolent desire, the dissemination of the Holy Scriptures. I have made a point of seeing Lieutenant H——, who has promised me, if you will extend your favours to Duchmere, he will distribute the books, and carefully attend to the performance of Divine Service on the Sabbath day. Also Lieutenant D——, who will shortly have a command in this division. I trust, Madam, I shall be still further able to forward those views, which must to all those who embrace them prove a sovereign balm in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment. With respectful compliments to the ladies, allow me to remain dear Madam, your devoted servant,

"——— ———."

A copy of the following letter was enclosed.

TO LIEUTENANT C———, R. N.

"Salt Dean Naval Watch-House, near Brighton,
"*March* 21*st*, 1825.

"Sir,

"We, the seamen of Salt Dean Station, having the pleasure to announce to those ladies, whose goodness has pleased them to provide the Bibles and Testaments for the use of us seamen that we have received them. We do therefore, return our sincere and most hearty thanks for the same, and we do assure the ladies whose friendship has proved so much in behalf of seamen, that every care shall be taken of the said books; and at the same time great care shall be taken to instruct those who have not the gift of education, and we at any time shall feel a pleasure in doing the same.

"We are, Sir,
"Your most obedient and dutiful servants,
"William Bell,
"D. Stringer,
"in the name of the Salt Dean party."

We have seen Mrs. Fry for many years, pressed by domestic duties, and by cares from without, seldom, for more than a few hours enjoying rest or mental repose, scarcely enough, to recruit her for coming exertion. We are now to look upon rather a different scene, and find her enjoying a lengthened period of comparative leisure. Between the river Thames, and a large piece of contiguous water, called Dagenham Breach, stand two cottages, surrounded by trees, mostly willows, on an open space of lawn, with beds of reeds behind them and on either side covering the river bank. They are open to the south-west, and are only to be attained by a rough and circuitous cart-road, or by crossing the water in front of the cottages. A narrow dyke led from the Tilbury Fort Road to the Breach waters. There a boat would meet the comer and convey him to that secluded watery world. Before this year, Dagenham had been but an occasional resort for fishing; now the repairs of the house at Plashet, induced the family to try it as a temporary abode. The experiment answered, and for some years, many summer weeks were passed by them in that singular retreat.

The life led there was one of real enjoyment; boating, fishing, the beautiful views of the Thames, and its opposite banks of Erith and Belvidere, the absence of form, the almost living in the open air, were pleasant and refreshing. Mrs. Fry delighted in the repose it afforded—her exquisite love of Nature was indulged, her children lived around her; the busy world seemed left behind. Some of those summer evenings are graven on the memory of the survivors. The glorious sunsets, the shipping on the river, the watery sounds, the freshness of the air, the happy groups of childhood, the pleasure of the parents, but above all, the calm bright look and spirit with which she enjoyed the whole. How pleased she was at the happiness around her, how entertained at the little adventures incident to boats and boating, how ready to unite in expeditions amongst the upland lanes and heaths of Beacontree and Hornchurch, and to encourage that gladness of heart which has its origin in the beautiful and the true.

Dagenham, Seventh Month, 30*th.*—We left Brighton last Sixth day, the 23rd, and after what I passed through in suffering, and afterwards in doing in various ways, I may acknowledge that I have no adequate expression to convey the gratitude due to my merciful and gracious Lord. I left it after a stay of nearly ten weeks, with a comparatively healthy body, and above all, a remarkably clear and easy mind; with a portion of that overflowing peace, that made all things natural and spiritual appear sweet, and in near love and unity, not only with Friends there, but *many, many* others. I felt as if, although an unworthy instrument, my labours there had not been in vain in the Lord, whether in suffering or in doing. It has not been without a good deal of anxiety, fatigue, and discouragement, that this state of sweet peace has been attained, as I am apt to suffer so much from many fears and doubts, particularly when in a weak state of health. The District Society, in which I was interested, I left, I trust, in a way for establishment; and likely to be very useful to the poor and to the rich. Also an arrangement to supply the Blockade men on the coast with Bibles and other books: and I hope they will be put in the way of reading them, instead of losing their time. But in carrying out these plans, and particularly for the District Society, there were many discouragements, no person, at one time, believing them to be practicable from the great difficulty of bringing parties together, who, through their peculiar religious views, and other causes, never would co-operate; indeed, at one time, the thing appeared to come to an end, but it unexpectedly rose again, and as far as I can judge, is in a fair way of establishment. Some of the poor Blockade men seemed much affected by the attention paid them, as also did their officers; and I am ready to hope that a little seed is scattered there. In Meetings I passed through much, at times going when I feared I should faint from weakness; but I found that help was laid on One who is Mighty, and I may indeed say, in my ministerial services, that out of weakness I was made strong. The Meetings were generally largely attended by those not Friends, of course without invitation, but I trust that they were good ones, and that we were edified together. This was through deep humiliation, and many, many fears. It certainly calls for great care and watchfulness in all things that we enter, to find that they be not of ourselves, but of our Master, whose servants we are; for He alone should point out our work.

The end, in an uncommon manner, appeared to crown all. Upon my way home I spent a few days at my uncle Barclay's, at Bury Hill. I much feel my uncle's great liberality in helping me so much with the poor. May he not lose his reward!

I was a little overwhelmed in once more arriving in my own neighbourhood; and upon visiting Plashet, on my way here, my heart felt tendered at the remembrance that I had left that place twelve weeks that day, and then begun my wandering life; how much I had passed through since that time, and what a blessing to be so much better. I expect that it will be long before my return home, as the repairs of the house are not nearly completed.

Extract of a Letter to one of her Daughters.

Plashet House, *Tenth Month*, 8*th*, 1824.

——— The vallies at present are in measure my portion. A cloud has in degree certainly rested upon us, which I do not feel removed, although broken. But I think my weak state adds much to this feeling, a sort of incapacity fully to arise, and a tendency to sink under circumstances, as if my power naturally was hardly equal to the many demands upon me. I am certainly a very different person; I would do, but I cannot do that which I would. Yesterday I dared not go to Newgate, nor the Sixth day before: I have only been once. But if the work be as I trust it is, of the Lord, it will go on without a poor creature like me. The dispensations that I have been under for many months past, have been very humbling. May they truly profit, and further, do that for me which I most desire, even draw me nearer to my God and Saviour; and may He who has, in so marvellous a manner, led me through this wilderness, prevent my being cast down too low, and enable me to estimate my many blessings, spiritual and temporal; which I am very sensible have been unusually granted me in many ways, though I believe that remarkable depths as well as remarkable heights have, in the ordering of Infinite wisdom, been my portion, but through all, I may indeed say, "The Lord be magnified," and may I bless His holy name for ever. I have unexpectedly been led to say so much.

I am thy very loving mother,

Elizabeth Fry.

Plashet, First Month, 6*th*, 1825.—Since I last wrote, I have visited Norfolk, altogether satisfactorily. My beloved sister Rachel being unwell, and my dear brother Joseph wanting me, induced me to go; though I felt indeed a poor, short-coming, unworthy one amongst them, and rather low in spirit, yet I believe that it was all well being there. Besides Earlham, I was at Runcton, and enjoyed my dear brother and sisters' kindness. I hope ever gratefully to remember his kindness and help in times of trouble—may the better blessing rest upon him and his.

My dearest daughter Rachel has been very unwell, which has taken up much of my time and attention. The unfinished state of our house has continued to produce much disorder and confusion, which has tried my mind, its effect being very undesirable upon the household generally. The last day of the last year, I lost a dear valuable Friend, who had just become an elder of our Meeting. After a few days' illness he was taken away from us no doubt in mercy and wisdom, but it is a great loss to those that are left. He was one of whom I believe, that after passing through the fire, he came out double refined, and fitted to join, not only the militant, but the triumphant church. My dear sister Catherine has been very ill the last few days, which has closely brought home to me the uncertainty of all things here.

I now wish to look back upon the year that has just passed, and to endeavour to examine my present standing. As for outward circumstances, I have lost none *very* near to me, but we have known more than common sorrow from illness. I might say I was seriously unwell, from the beginning of the Third Month to the autumn. I passed through many very painful hours, and some peaceful ones, a few of deep suffering; I question, whether in my life comfort and hope were more, if so much, extinct in my mind. Still, "a prayer-hearing, answering God," delivered me out of my distresses, I may say, "plucked my feet out of the mire and clay, and set them upon a rock, again established my goings, put a new song into my mouth, even praises to my God." This has been a year of much increase of property, so as to remove many of those fears that I have had upon the subject. As for myself I have not much to say, still deeply sensible of great unworthiness, many short-comings, the world too uppermost, too great a tendency to bow to man, rather than purely serve the living God; not what I would be as wife and mother. Yet through all, there is a living desire to serve my Lord acceptably; at times in suffering, not repining; and in doing, although I may flinch, yet taking up the cross; continuing to speak well of the Lord amongst the people, engaged in heart in the prison cause, Bible Society, and other things of the kind; being made use of in them is an honour I feel and know I am unworthy of, and if ever, through grace, I am enabled to promote the cause of truth and righteousness, may I never take glory to myself, but give it altogether to Him who alone is worthy. And now, on entering another year, grant, dearest Lord, to Thy servant who trusteth in Thee, more patience, more trust, more watchfulness, more humility, more quietness of mind, and above all, more reliance and faith in Thee, her God and Saviour, and in the influences of Thy Spirit. Be pleased to bless not only her, but all near to her, with Thy presence and Thy good Spirit.

26*th*.—I returned from a short expedition to Brighton last evening. A very interesting and I trust not unimportant one. My object was the District Society that I was enabled to form there, when I was so ill, or rather recovering from that state. Much good appears done, much more likely to be done; a fine arrangement made, if it be but followed up; and I humbly trust that a blessing will attend the work, and has already attended it. I feel that I have not time to relate our interesting history, but I should say that the short time we spent there was a mark of the features of the present day. A poor unworthy woman, nothing extraordinary in point of power, simply seeking to follow a crucified Lord, and to co operate with His grace in the heart; yet followed after by almost every rank in society, with the greatest openness for any communications of a religious nature; numbers at Meeting of different denominations, also at our own house, noblemen, ladies in numbers, clergy, dissenters, and Friends of course; we had most satisfactory religious opportunities together, where the power of the endless life appeared to be in great dominion. Our dear Lord and Master Himself appearing remarkably to own us together. William Allen was there, a great helper; we were at dear Agatha and Elizabeth Barclay's, whose kindness, love, and sweetness were abundant towards us. Two of my daughters were with me. When I see as I did at Brighton, how remarkably I appear raised up, so that "the righteous compass me about," I cannot help feeling, that in my case the cross has "humbled to exalt," and also that inasmuch as I have sought to follow my Lord, when I have feared that in doing so, I should lose the good opinion, and even the love, of almost every body, the good as well as others, how has it proved my experience that "he that honoureth me I will honour." I passed through great exercise of spirit lest I should be exalted, or the truth suffer through me, but my belief is, that if no suffering or humiliation prevents my keeping close to my Lord, no flinching of mine, that *close* under His banner I shall be safe, whether He be pleased to raise me up and honour me, or cast me down and afflict me. On my return home I find all well, but cares flow fresh in upon me, with something of a rush. Oh, for a quiet spirit and a mind not easily agitated by the worries and perturbations of the cares of life!

Third Month, 3rd.—I hope I am thankful for being really better, though delicate in health. I wish I did not dread illness so much, it is a real infirmity in me; may grace be granted to overcome it. I think strange to say I felt, and I fear appeared to those about me to be irritable. Certainly I had some cause to be so, but after what I have known of the power that is able indeed, to help us, I never ought to give way to anything of the kind; all should be meekness, gentleness, and love. Perhaps I said too much about some pictures and various ornaments that have been brought from France for us; much as I love true Christian simplicity, yet if I show a wrong spirit in my desire to maintain it in our house and furniture, I do wrong and harm the best of causes. I far prefer moderation, both from principle and taste, although my experience in life proves two things; first, that it is greatly for the good of the community, to live according to the situation in which we have been placed by a kind Providence, if it be done unto the Lord, and therefore done properly; then I believe that by so doing we should help others and not injure ourselves. Second, I have so much seen the extreme importance of occupation, to the well-being of mankind, that many works of art, that tend to our accommodation, and even the gratification of our taste, may be innocently partaken of, may be used and not abused, and kept in their proper places; as by so doing, we encourage that sort of employment that prevents the active powers of man being spent in things that are evil.

But to return to myself, "Ah! for a closer walk with God!"

I long for it; a more constant dwelling near in spirit to my Lord and Saviour, being altogether His, guided by His counsel, strengthened by His grace, animated by His love, obedient, faithful, humble, watchful, patient, prompt in His service. If I know myself this is my first desire for myself and others.

The contrition so frequently expressed in the course of Mrs. Fry's journal, for irritability of temper, is calculated to mislead a stranger, who would naturally suppose that it must occasionally have betrayed itself in conduct. To those who intimately knew the never failing gentleness, forbearance, and Christian meekness of her deportment, that such feelings ever ruffled her mind, is almost inexplicable. Those most closely connected with her, in the nearest and most familiar relations of life, can unhesitatingly bear their testimony to the fact, that they never saw her in what is called a pet, or heard an angry or passionate expression of displeasure pass from her lips. Her tender conscience and fear of offence towards God and man, can alone account for these outpourings of the hidden evils of her heart.

Plashet, Fourth Month, 6th.—The state of our house keeps my mind very much occupied by trifles and temporal things. It is very important with my very numerous objects to have outward things in order; indeed I go so far, as not to like to sit down in a room, even for my time of reading and retirement, without having it neat, and things in their places. I think some people are not sensible how greatly some of these smaller matters conduce to the healthy state of the mind, and even in degree to the prosperity of the soul. I often greatly suffer from the great press upon me, making it nearly impossible not to be in confusion both as to my things and papers, and even what is more, in my mind. How I long for a quieter and better regulated mind, and to have all more in order; as to outward things I hope a few weeks will accomplish this. The delightful weather and season; the innumerable beauties of nature, now showing themselves, have, I may say, refreshed my soul, and led it to "look through Nature, up to Nature's God." To my mind the outward works of creation are delightful, instructive, and edifying. I am, I hope, thankful for so much capacity to admire and rejoice in them. How important to cultivate this taste in youth! It is an advantage through life, in many ways.

Plashet, Fourth Month, 21*st.*—My occupations are just now multitudinous. The British Society, and all that is attached to it, Newgate as usual. Forming with much fear, and some misgivings, a Servants' Society, yet with a hope, and something of a trust, that it will be for the good of this class of persons for generations to come. I have felt so much for such, for so many years, that I am willing to sacrifice some strength and time for their sakes. It is, however, with real fear that I do it, because I am sensible of being at times pressed beyond my strength of body and mind. But the day is short, and I know not how to reject the work that comes to hand to do.

Plashet, 25*th.*—I have had some true encouragement in my objects since I last wrote. The British Society meeting was got through to much satisfaction. To myself, (the poor humble instrument amongst women in this country,) it is really wonderful what has been accomplished in the prisons during the last few years. How the cause has spread, and what good has been done, how much evil prevented, how much sorrow alleviated, how many plucked like brands from the burning; what a cause for deep thanksgiving, and still deeper humiliation, to have been in any degree one of the instruments made use of to bring about these results, I have also received a delightful account of the effects of my labours for the poor at Brighton; it appears that the arrangements made, have greatly prospered amongst both rich and poor; also for the blockade-men on the coast. This is cause for fresh thankfulness of heart. I may say, that I there sowed in tears, and I now reap in joy.

The Servants' Society appears gradually opening as if it would be established according to my desire. No one knows what I go through in forming these Institutions, it is always in fear, and mostly with many misgivings; wondering at myself for doing it. I believe the original motive is love to my Master, and love to my fellow-creatures; but fear is so predominant a feeling in my mind that it makes me suffer, perhaps unnecessarily from doubts. I have felt something like access in prayer, before making the regulations of the Servants' Society. Sometimes my natural understanding seems enlightened about things of that kind, as if I were helped to see the right and useful thing. This I remarkably found in the prisons,—in the Brighton District Society, and in my youth a good deal about schools for the poor, before they were so general as they now are. My dearest sister Rachel continues really unwell, her state makes me anxious. I wonder I am so calm about it, for she is in some respects beyond any other person to me, and I certainly think I owe more to her than to any one else; my natural tie to her is inexpressible, and if she should be taken from us, one of my strongest interests in life will be gone.

Fifth Month, 23rd.—I think that I am under the deepest exercise of mind that I ever experienced, in the prospect of a Meeting to be held this evening, for all the young people assembled at the Yearly Meeting. It is held at my request, my brother Joseph uniting in it. In a remarkable degree it has plunged me into the depths, into real distress, I feel so unfit, so unworthy, so perplexed, so fearful, even so sorrowful, so tempted to mistrustful thoughts, ready to say, "Can such an one be called to such a service?" I do believe that "this is my infirmity;" and I have a humble hope and confidence, that out of this great weakness I shall be made strong. As far as I know it has been in simple obedience to manifested duty, that I gave up to this service, and went through the ordeal of the Yearly Meeting. If I know my own deceitful heart, it has been done in love to my Lord and to His cause. Lord preserve me through this depth, through this stripping season: if it should please Thee to grant me the garments of Thy salvation, and the help of Thy Spirit, further enable me wholly to give unto Thee the glory, which is due unto Thy name. If Thou makest use of Thy handmaid to speak in Thy name, be Thou Thyself her help and her strength, her glory and the lifter up of her head. Enable her to rely on Thee, on Thy might and on Thy mercy, to commit her whole cause unto Thee, and keep in the remembrance of Thy handmaid, that the blessed cause of truth and righteousness is not *her's* but *Thine.*

Plashet, Sixth Month, 2nd —The awful and buffetted state of my mind was in degree calmed as the day advanced. I went to town with my beloved brother Joseph, who appeared to have been in something of a similar depth of unusual suffering—we went into the Meeting together; the large Meeting-house was soon so crowded, that no more could get in; I suppose from eighteen hundred to two thousand persons, principally youth. All my children were there except little Harry. I heard hundreds went away who could not get in. After going in and taking my seat, my mind was soon calmed, and the fear of man greatly, if not quite taken away. My beloved brother, Joseph, bowed the knee and poured forth prayer for us. I soon after rose and expressed what was on my mind, towards the assembly: First, that all were acceptable who worked righteousness and served the Lord. Secondly, that the mercies of our God should induce this service as a debt due to Him. Thirdly, that it must be done by following a crucified Lord, and faithfully taking up the cross. Fourthly, how important, therefore, to the church generally and to our religious Society, for us so to do individually and collectively: for that if this were done, there would be from amongst that company, those who would be as lights to the world, or as a city set on a hill that cannot be hid; I had to conclude with a desire that an entrance might be abundantly ministered unto them, into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I then sat down but did not feel to have fully relieved my mind. Joseph rose, and stood more than an hour, he preached a very instructive and striking sermon on faith and doctrine. Then my dear sister Elizabeth Fry, and my uncle Joseph, said something. Afterwards I knelt down in prayer, and thought I found no common access to the Fountain of all our sure mercies; I was enabled to cast my burden for the youth and my own beloved offspring amongst the rest, upon Him who is mighty to save, and to deliver. I had to ask for a blessing upon our labours of love towards them, and that our deficiencies might be made up; that the blessing of the Most High might rest upon them from generation to generation, and that cross bearers and standard bearers might not be wanting from amongst them. I felt helped in every way, the very spirit and power appeared near, and when I rose from my knees I could in faith leave it all to Him who can alone prosper His own work. A few hints that impressed me I afterwards expressed, which were to encourage the youth in the good works of the present day; but to entreat them when engaged in them to maintain the watch, lest they should build up with one hand, and pull down with the other. Secondly that it was never too soon to begin to serve the Lord, and that there was nothing too small to please Him in. Then commending them to His grace and bidding them farewell, the Meeting concluded in a very solemn manner; it lasted about two hours and a half, and general satisfaction appears to have been felt. When it was over, I may say we rejoiced together, I hope, in the Lord: so that my soul did magnify the Lord, and my spirit rejoiced in God my Saviour.

Plashet, 6th.—The death of my dear aunt Gurney, obliges me to go into Norfolk; I therefore set off to-day, accompanied by my sister Elizabeth. I propose also attending the Essex Quarterly Meeting in going, and the Suffolk in returning. It has been a sacrifice giving up to go, but I desire to do it in simplicity of faith as unto my Lord; trusting that it will prove for edification and refreshment. My beloved William, also sets off from home, for a journey on the Continent with Dr. Pinkerton; I have desired to do right in letting him go and feel satisfied in it. I have been enabled this morning to commit him, and all of my children, to the everlasting Shepherd and Bishop of souls, particularly for him, dear fellow! that the Almighty may be with him, and that he may become more established in the ever blessed faith, as it is in Jesus. I leave home, and give up my dear son in faith, humbly trusting through the tender mercy of my Lord, that all will be well.

Extract from a Letter to her Family at Home.

Earlham, *Sixth Month,* 11*th,* 1825.

I wonder almost that I have not written to you before, but my engagements have been, I think I may say, hourly and constant. On Fifth day, the funeral, and yesterday, Norwich Monthly Meeting; we dined at the Grove. I have felt a good deal in this visit. The changes that take place in these parts are very affecting. I paid a quiet visit to the grave-yard the other morning, and there sat first upon my mother's, then my father's, then Priscilla's and John's graves; and, as you may suppose, wept at their sweet remembrance. I could not but meditate upon the probability of all our heads being before very long placed under the "green grass turf." These were my cogitations, and I trust not without some of a higher nature; it is a fearful thing not to be ready, for the change may come very unawares: but I may say, as it respects my own, I have lately felt increasing hope that "all will be well."

Plashet, 18*th.*—I am returned home after attending my dear aunt's funeral, and two Quarterly Meetings. I paid a very interesting visit to Earlham. I have passed through much deep feeling, and been in various ways much engaged as a minister, of which service I am wonderfully unworthy, but out of weakness I often experience help and strength to my own admiration.

Since I returned home, a great press of company every day, Lord Bexley and Sophia Vansittart, Lord Suffield, Lord and Lady Torrington, and many others. Lord, grant a little help, quiet and enlighten my heart, that I may see what to do, and what to leave undone, and that which I find to do, enable me to perform in simplicity of faith, unto Thyself, and Thy glory; and, Lord, be pleased to keep Thy very frail and unworthy servant on the right hand, and on the left, that evil overcome her not.

Seventh Month, 14*th.*—I think of late my engagements have been more numerous than ever, so as at times to overwhelm and overdo body and mind. I have deeply felt my uncle Hoare's death. Twice in the week I have visited that family in their affliction, to my inward peace.

The kindness and attentions received from Mr. and Mrs. Hoare, in early life, had left a grateful impression on Mrs. Fry's mind. The intercourse then begun had been maintained from that time, and was rendered even more interesting and intimate by the marriage of her sister Louisa, into their family, and the congenial sentiments of her brother-in-law, Samuel Hoare, Esq., on the subject of Prison Discipline, in which he took an active and important part.

LETTER FROM HER SISTER, MRS. SAMUEL HOARE.

"Hampstead, *July 29th.*

"My dearest Betsy,

"I have much wished to communicate again with you. I have felt your presence and aid and ministry amongst us, so peculiarly valuable during our late time of trial. It is indeed blessed to be the appointed and willing instrument in aiding the weak, and consoling the sorrowful, and this has been most remarkably the case with you. I have found the last few weeks a time of discipline, not without humiliation, as well as sorrow to me; but we have been very quiet and tranquil since the day we passed together.

"Dearest Betsy,
"Your most affectionate,
"L. HOARE."

From the scene of mourning at Hampstead, she passed successively to the bedsides of two of her near connexions; in both instances, she was actively engaged in nursing.

Plashet, Eighth Month, 3rd.—I regretted these calls, because I particularly wished to have my mind calm and at liberty with my beloved family, before the very interesting and important event of my son's marriage.

Dagenham, Eighth Month, 10*th.*—On Fifth day, the 4th of this month, my dear eldest son was married. Upon the previous evening, with a few of the family present, I was enabled to commend him to his God, for direction, and for protection; it was a very serious time. The next morning, we all, in our wedding garments, proceeded to London; my beloved husband and myself alone in the chariot, deeply feeling the weight of the occasion. Upon our arrival at the Meeting House, in Westminster, we found the party generally assembled. Soon after our sitting down in the Meeting there was that which quieted our spirits, and said, "Peace, be still." We sat more than half an hour, when dear Rebecca Christy knelt down, and, in a powerful manner, prayed for the young people, that a blessing might be with them, above all a spiritual blessing; my heart went with her, and I poured forth my tears before the Lord on their account; there was a very solemn feeling over us, a little as if the Master owned the wedding company by His presence. I had to offer fervent petitions for their good, naturally and spiritually, and for grace for them to keep their solemn covenant with each other, and to make fresh covenant with their Lord. We had an elegant and hospitable entertainment afterwards; my dear uncle Barclay was there, he is grandfather to the bride, and great uncle to the bridegroom.

The day after the wedding we came here, which I have much enjoyed, being so quietly with my beloved husband and children, and so much devoted to them. The refreshing air and change of scene appear really to have invigorated me.

27*th.*—Since writing the above our bride and bridegroom returned. It has been to me really a time of rejoicing. Lord, bless them together, and grant them Thy love, Thy peace, and Thy joy. We have very satisfactory accounts of our beloved William from abroad, for which I trust I am thankful. Our dear son and daughter Cresswell are likely to live in Norfolk. I much feel parting from them and my sweet grandchildren. I think all our bonds of love strengthen. My sister Rachel's continued indisposition is, perhaps, my greatest outward trial at present, but, as it respects her, in the most important things, "all is well," therefore my anxiety about her is not of the deepest or most sorrowful kind. In short, at this time, it seems as if in every thing I must return thanks, and like the disciple, formerly, might answer to the query, "Lackest thou any thing?" Nothing, Lord, except more of Thy grace and good Spirit in all our hearts, to make us thankful receivers of Thy unmerited, innumerable, and unspeakable gifts.

Plashet, Ninth Month, 8th.—The ministry of my brother Joseph, William Allen, and Cornelius Hanbury, were delightful to me on First day. How I rejoice over those who love the Lord. There have been times lately, when I could say, I was happy.

The period of rest and refreshment at Dagenham was only preparatory to fresh exertion. Mrs. Fry again believed it her duty to leave home, and travel into Devonshire and Cornwall, accompanied by her sister-in law, Elizabeth Fry.

Dagenham, 21st.—Yesterday we laid our concern before our Monthly Meeting. I believe we had the sympathy, unity, and near love of our Friends, which was really encouraging and comforting. How truly do the living members of the militant church help one another; surely it is well now and then to have their feeling for each other excited. I was enabled, in the Meeting to commend those who go, and those who stay, to the keeping of the Unslumbering Shepherd, and found near access to Him in prayer, being strengthened to cast my care upon Him on whom help is laid. I have felt happier since. This morning, in our family, I had to return thanks for the time of rest and refreshment that we have had here, and also to pray for preservation for all.

Kingsbridge, 29th.—Here we are, so far on our journey; we left Plashet on Seventh day, and I felt in no common degree easy and peaceful, although a little low at leaving home, and parting from those dear to me; but still in a cheerful state of mind, and able in going along to cast my care in no common degree upon my Holy Helper, so that anxiety on account of those left and about our future engagements appeared taken from me. I much enjoyed passing through the abundant beauties of the country. I have here felt the weight of the service we are engaged in, and found both my body and mind shaken by the deep exercise of my mind. I think we got well through the Quarterly Meeting. I earnestly desired to be altogether conformed to my blessed Master's will, without any reserves, and in this feeling I believed it right to have a Meeting appointed for this evening. It has cost me a good deal to give up to such a service, but I am more comfortable since I have done so; although I feel very unfit for such services. Ah! dearest Lord, anoint us with fresh oil for this service, that it may tend to the exaltation of Thy name, and the unity, edification, comfort and strength of Thy people of every denomination.

Plymouth, Tenth Month, 1st.—I trust that I am thankful to be able to say that the Meeting (at Kingsbridge) was very satisfactory, and to my feelings, brought almost unspeakable peace. I thought we were favoured in a remarkable manner to feel sweet unity of spirit, with those present, of various descriptions, and we might say, like the disciples formerly, "Did not our hearts burn within us as He talked with us by the way?" At first, deep poverty of spirit, with many fears on my own account beset me, but as the Meeting advanced, power increased; these were allayed, and we might rejoice in the feeling, that the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth, God over all, blessed for ever!

Liskeard, 8th.—Another week is now past, and much has been gone through. At Plymouth, we attended several Meetings, but one was most important to me; it was one that I had appointed at Devonport. I first felt the concern when a girl travelling with my father, I then believed, that if ever I became a minister I must hold a Meeting there; and the time now appeared come for it. My attraction was to the lowest and worst classes. It was indeed an act of faith; I have a feeling of unfitness and unworthiness for such services, beyond what I can express. The day passed tolerably, I attended two regular Meetings, but as the time for this Meeting drew near, my heart was ready to fail; fears got hold of me, and almost had dominion over me. On entering the assembly, I hardly dared look up, when I did, I thought there must be fifteen hundred people present, mostly poor; I may, I think say, it was before it ended a glorious time;

much solemnity prevailed amongst us, the power of the great and good Spirit appearing to reign over all. I cannot help humbly trusting that the fruit will remain. We had an interesting Meeting with the youth, and another the next morning at a wedding; we were much united to many dear friends. We have since visited three Meetings in Cornwall. The beautiful country delights me, when my mind is at liberty. My heart is often with those dear ones, far away, particularly my daughter Rachel, and my sister Rachel; but I feel that I have left all for my Master's sake, therefore can trust them to Him.

Plashet, Eleventh Month, 7th.—We returned home last Sixth day, where I had the unspeakable comfort of finding all going on well. To return to my journal of our journey; from Liskeard, we proceeded to a place called St. Austle, and then to Falmouth. We attended two Monthly, one Quarterly, and other Meetings amongst Friends; also had public ones at Falmouth and many other places. I do not wonder that Friends write about their Meetings, as I believe none but ministers can tell how deeply they are to be felt, the great weight before them, and the necessary preparatory baptisms. The act of faith in appointing them, not knowing whether we shall have any thing to say in them or not and the sense of the infirmity of the instrument to my fearful, nervous mind, is almost overwhelming; then when help has been granted, the thing well got through, the burden taken off, peace does certainly at times flow; and rejoicing in the Lord, our Holy Helper, is in no common degree experienced, to the unspeakable refreshment and consolation of the soul. So we found it in many instances. Our visit to Falmouth, and the round we took in Cornwall, with my beloved cousins, Lucy and Maria Fox, and their husbands, was highly interesting, naturally and spiritually. We visited some of the striking and wonderful scenery on the coast of Cornwall; saw much of the people and of Friends, they are an interesting, enlightened people, and our Meetings drew us together in religious communion. We paid an important, though short visit to Exeter; I fear a little hurried, yet liberty seemed granted me not to tarry by the way. We had a good Public Meeting, also one with Friends, visited many of their families, and formed a Prison Committee. We concluded our visit to Devonshire at a sweet little Meeting at Spiceland. Many dear friends, on our journey, were like fathers and mothers, brothers, sisters, and children to us ; may I long gratefully remember it. We returned home by Wellington, Bath, Melksham, and Bury Hill. My dearest cousin, Priscilla H. Gurney's state, appeared to be that of the Pillar in the Temple, to go no more out. And now what shall I say ? This long looked for and important journey finished, and I safely and happily at home. The first feeling is, what can I render unto the Lord for His unspeakable gifts and providential care over us, permitting us all, including dear William after his continental journey, to meet again in safety and peace ? Also for having been " out of weakness made strong " in so remarkable a manner, enabled to " wax valiant in fight," and for such services as we were called into, being anointed with fresh oil.

Plashet, Twelfth Month, 15th.—Several large banking-houses in London, and many in the country, have stopped payment; a great many are in danger, strong as well as weak ones ; what will yet occur none can tell.

19*th.*—The country is in a very awful state, the press upon bankers is so very great, that throughout the kingdom many are stopping payment.

31*st.*—The last day of this year, in many respects a memorable one to me. In the beginning of it, I experienced, in outward things, the flow of great prosperity. In the close of it, great anxiety. I have seen my eldest son married. I have been favoured with the lives of those nearest to me, and with a few exceptions, their health.

Spiritually, I have been enabled to make some sacrifices, which have cost me dear, particularly the Meeting for Youth, during the Yearly Meeting ; and the Public Meetings on my journey in the west of England, which were to me greatly taking up the cross ; but in doing and in suffering help has been granted me, and whether spiritually or naturally, I have much cause for thanksgiving and praise !

CHAPTER XIV.

1826-27. Ladies' Prison Meeting—Letter from Hannah More—Dagenham—Letter to her sister Rachel Gurney—Attends a marriage at Rochester—Convict ships—Letter to her daughter—Projected visit to Ireland—Goes to Earlham and Lynn—Letter to a sister—Letter from her sister Rachel Gurney—Farewell letter—Departure for Ireland—Letter to her family—Illness at Waterford—Return home.

The storm that had prevailed in the money world, during the latter part of 1825, subsided as 1826 advanced; but it did not pass away without leaving fearful traces of its course. Many mercantile houses were entirely overthrown; amongst them, some, involving much-valued friends of Mrs. Fry, whilst others were so shaken, as never to recover the shock. These things made it a very anxious time to her, and called forth much of her sympathy towards the sufferers.

First Month, 28th, 1826.—The principle of justice cannot be too deeply impressed upon the youthful mind, also, the greatest uprightness in all money transactions. How do I desire for myself that, however it may be my duty to be occupied about temporal things, my treasure be not in them, but that my heart and soul may be raised above them. This morning, I think I have had a glimpse of those possessions that cannot be shaken by the ups and downs of life. I see temporally also, that there are innumerable blessings in the outward works of creation, open to all, whether rich or poor. The same glorious sun to enlighten, and other bright and beautiful things made in common for every one.

Thinking over these subjects, those words in Ecclesiasticus struck me much, chap. xi. 21, 22:—" Marvel not, at the works of sinners; but trust in the Lord, and abide in thy labour: for it is an easy thing in the sight of the Lord on the sudden to make a poor man rich. The blessing of the Lord is in the reward of the godly, and suddenly he maketh his blessing to flourish." I may say the Lord doth provide, the Lord hath provided, and my humble trust is that the Lord will provide.

Third Month, 29*th*.—Yesterday, I attended the Quarterly Meeting, where I think there was to be felt something of celestial showers on thirsty land, partly through the ministry of others, partly from what I trust was an immediate ministration from the Great Minister of ministers. A dear relation, a clergyman, was at meeting, I felt sweetly united to him. After all, however we may differ as to the means of grace, our end in view is the same, and we feel at times that we have but one Lord, one faith, and one baptism. I increasingly find, that whoever love the Lord Jesus, are without distinction, as brothers, sisters, fathers, and mothers to me; although I know that I am a very unworthy partaker of this foretaste of that, for which we may look in the heavenly inheritance.

In reply to a slight request, at that time addressed by Elizabeth Fry to Hannah More, she received this gratifying reply:—

My dear Friend,

Any request of yours, if within my very limited power, cannot fail to be immediately complied with. In your kind note, I wish you had mentioned something of your own health, and that of your family.

I look back with no small pleasure to the too short visit with which you once indulged me, a repetition of it would be no little gratification to me. Whether Divine Providence may grant it or not, I trust through Him who loved us, and gave himself for us, that we may hereafter meet in that blessed country, where there is neither sin, sorrow, nor separation.

Believe me, my dear friend, with true esteem and warm affection, to remain yours sincerely,

H. MORE.

Barley Wood, 15*th of April*, 1826.

Mrs. Fry entertained the highest appreciation of this lady's character, and of the benefits she had conferred upon her country, especially upon her country-women. She always referred with great pleasure to her visit to Barley Wood, and the impresion made upon her by the mingled sweetness and dignity of Mrs. More's countenance and manner.

In a letter to a friend Mrs. More thus mentions the circumstance:—

"To own the work of nonconformity in lesser things and of perfect conformity in heart and mind. Yesterday the long-desired meeting took place between Mrs. Newgate (oh, that that name should ever become an honour!) Fry and myself; we were ready to eat one another up. Her appearance and manner reminded me of what I have often said, that I should like to have her picture as Deborah judging Israel under the palm tree! She is indeed delightful. At parting she knelt down, and put up a feeling prayer for unworthy me."

In a copy of her "Practical Piety," given by Mrs. More to Mrs. Fry, is this inscription.

TO MRS. FRY,

Presented by HANNAH MORE,
As a token of veneration
Of her heroic zeal,
Christian charity,
And persevering kindness,
To the most forlorn
Of human beings.
They were naked and she
Clothed them;
In prison and she visited them;
Ignorant and she taught them,
For *His* sake,
In *His* name, and by *His* word,
Who went about doing good.

Barley Wood, June 17th, 1818.

Fourth Month, 20th.—I look forward with some anxiety to the British Ladies' Society Meeting, to-morrow; I desire preservation for myself in it, that what I do, may be done unto the Lord and not unto man, with true Christian courtesy. There is a respect due to those, who are placed by a kind Providence in high stations as to this life, but I also feel that there is a bold Christian character to maintain, as we are all one in Christ, and children of one heavenly Parent. May none of us engaged in the work, suffer loss; but may the cause in which we are interested be really promoted, and the whole be done to the glory of God our Saviour, and His doctrine be adorned by it.

22nd.—The meeting was a very interesting one; much good appears to be doing by those who visit prisons. Many places of refuge are also formed. I had a good deal to say at different times in the meeting, and concluded with a little general advice to a very numerous assembly of ladies. At first, I was very peaceful, and really believed that the best of causes had been promoted in that meeting; but during the night and this morning, I was nervous and low, deeply impressed with the extreme difficulty of acting right in conspicuous places, and the danger on every hand that attends being brought into them, as I at times am. I may say, that I have earnestly sought the Lord for help and preservation. I fully unite in the Christian duty of true simplicity in dress; I think it rather too much dwelt upon by us, as a Society, but much too little by many in the religious world.

Fifth Month, 27th.—We are in the midst of the Yearly Meeting; to me a very important time, as I am greatly interested in the welfare of the Society. I do most fully unite in most of its practices and principles; but still I may say, I have somewhat against it, I see that we may improve as we go on, if that which first led us to be a peculiar people, be kept to by us. I think in our Meetings for Discipline, too much stress is laid on minor parts of our testimonies, such as "plainness of speech, behaviour, and apparel," rather than on the greater and weightier matters of the law; these (lesser things) are well, and I believe should be attended to; but they should not occupy an undue place. I do not like the habit of that mysterious, ambiguous mode of expression, in which Friends at times clothe their observations, and their ministry. I like the truth in simplicity, it needs no mysterious garment. I also can hardly bear to hear Friends make us out to be a chosen people, above others.

I have very much kept silence amongst them, being generally quite clear of any thing to do; but as a spectator, I have rejoiced in the love, the sweetness, and the power of good amongst us, and the evidence that our great High Priest is owning us for good.

Sixth Month, 3rd.—Our Yearly Meeting concluded yesterday. I can hardly express the sweetness of the remembrance of the time. We have at seasons, I may truly say, rejoiced together in the Lord, and partaken of that, which as evidently comforts and delights the soul, as outward refreshment does the body, when hungry, thirsty, and faint. I have been really refreshed in spirit.

Dagenham, Seventh Month, 20th.—I am once more come to this quiet abode, and cannot but enjoy its refreshing influence, more particularly, as my soul has of late been too much disquieted within me; a good deal, I think, from the perplexed state of the business world. Also, I have been, perhaps, too anxious respecting the well-being of my children, and too prone to fret myself in spirit about them. I have been frequently tried by many fears respecting myself, whether I might not have done, and might not do, more for my children. I do not think I am naturally gifted with the talent of education, as some of my sisters are. I have had some doubts whether our peculiar views, in many little things, much in the cross to young people, do not in measure turn them from religion itself; on the other hand, I see in others how imperceptibly the standard lowers, when these minor scruples are given up. I am persuaded, in the education of youth, there are two sides to the question. I have no doubt whatever of the utility of these things, when adopted from conviction; my doubts are, how far they should be pressed upon young persons, through education. However, I see no other way for myself, and believe, that I must bring my children up, as, I have seen with such indubitable clearness, to be right for myself, which has been so wonderfully blessed to my own soul. That happy day may arrive, when, on their own ground, I may see some of my beloved children walking in the same way; if this would too much gratify me naturally and spiritually, then I am indeed ready to say, by any means, or in any way, so they but come to the knowledge of Christ their Saviour, and be saved through Him, I should be satisfied. It is certainly very sweet, for those who are united by natural ties, also to choose the same path in spiritual things, but experience has proved, in the case of my beloved brothers and sisters, that much of the unity of the spirit and the bond of peace may be experienced, when we may not see eye to eye.

24*th.*—Yesterday was so very wet and windy, that we spent a quiet First day here. Serious as it is, not to attend our places of worship, yet it is not without its advantages, to find, that the same worship can be performed in private as in the public assembly; and that it is not the place, or the people, but (if in a right spirit) an acceptable worship may be offered every where. All our family assembled twice in the day, I think to real edification, so that it proved neither dull nor unpleasant, though we were all shut up for a long day in this little house.

Plashet, *Eighth Month,* 3*rd.*

We have had our dearest brother and Lady Harriet here the last few days; I have felt nearly united to them, and, desire to return thanks, that such sweet unity exists amongst us. He is a dear and most kind brother to me, and I see the hand of a merciful Providence in his heart being so open towards us; he warmly and steadily does all he can to help us. To my other dear brothers, also, I feel deeply grateful, and still more so, I trust, to Him who hitherto has helped us, and inclines their hearts towards us.

To her Sister Rachel Gurney.

Dagenham, *Eighth Month,* 12*th,* 1826.

My dearest Rachel,

It appears rather too long since we have had any communication. I am now very desirous of hearing again of you, and how thou art.——We are comfortably settled here, for which I already feel better, and am revived by the fresh air and beautiful views, for the river and the Kentish hills are to my taste delightful. The longer I live, the more I enjoy quiet and real retirement; I think my inclination would dictate withdrawing very much from the world,—I desire to be thankful that I am enabled to partake of this enjoyment, although, I believe, the time is not yet come for me really to withdraw from the bustle of life.——We have begun to read my brother Joseph's Essays together, in the morning, we hope to read them through, whilst we are here. We think of getting Pepys' Memoirs, to read in the afternoon. The close contact that we are brought in with each other, and so often having my beloved husband join us, is really valuable; he means to read the Essays with us.

I have time here to think of my friends, as well as to love them.

I am, indeed and in truth thine and Catherine's nearly attached sister,

E. F.

Dagenham, 29*th.*—I returned from Rochester, yesterday. We went to Gravesend in the steam-packet, which was refreshing; a beautiful calm evening, the river and its banks in great beauty, and nothing in the people on board, to hurt my mind. I distributed a few tracts, but in other respects I fear I did no good. We proceeded to Rochester, where we met with a most kind and cordial reception. I feel watchfulness very necessary with those, who, from our outward situation in life, are prone to estimate us above our desert, and in doing things that may appear humble, the danger of pride taking advantage and being gratified. On the other hand, I felt a little encouraged that my earnest desire to do justice to my servants, and to watch over them for good, had not been in vain; for Sarah T——, whose wedding I went to attend, and who, with her family, was so delighted to have me and some of my children there, lived with me nine years as upper nurse, and in that time, I never remember having the least real difference with her. I am a great friend to doing full justice to servants, and bearing as much as we can with their infirmities, remembering the many disadvantages that they labour under. To proceed with my narrative—we went with the company to the wedding, and had a satisfactory meeting. As soon as the meeting was over, a gentleman came to beg me to attend a Bible Meeting about to be held, which I afterwards understood was a Naval and Military one. On which account, some dear Friends doubted the propriety of our going; but my heart was full of zeal, I felt clear, that of all people, as promoters of peace, we should show ourselves willing and glad to aid them in such an object, as the most likely means of advancing that day, when they "shall beat their swords into plough-shares and their spears into pruning-hooks." Lord Bexley, who came to attend the meeting, called upon me twice at the T——'s, to beg me to go. I made up my mind to do so, and was delighted to see so many naval officers, particularly young men, coming forward to espouse so great and good a cause. I feared for myself being in any degree exhilirated in spirit by the kindness and marked attention shown me, and by the honour conferred on me; wholly unworthy as I am of being instrumental in encouraging others in works of righteousness.

We returned home by the steam packet. I believed it right to enter a little into conversation with most of the passengers, and to give them tracts; also, as the way opened for it, to throw a little weight into the right scale. We then had a boat to meet us, and visited the two female-convict ships now in the river. Their order, cleanliness, and general appearance, delighted me; I was struck with the wonderful change, since we first undertook them. Elizabeth Pryor has been greatly blessed in her labours, and it is a true consolation to see what has been accomplished. Joseph, Richenda, and Louisa, returned with me here safely by boat, just in time to dine with my husband, and the rest of my children. I have thus minutely entered into the particulars of this expedition, as, some day when my head is laid low, it may interest my children, and children's children, to know how it fared with me at such times. This morning, my soul was so deeply prostrated in prayer, that I had to pour it forth after reading. I feel, more particularly after being engaged in service, like a vessel that wants fresh washing; and to whom can I go but to Him, who ever remains the fountain open for the uncircumcised and the unclean? I found, I believe, access to the throne of grace. Oh! what need is there of the washing of regeneration, and the renewings of the Holy Ghost. It is as necessary to the soul, as daily washing and food are to the body; and if by this means any of us are fitted for any good word or work, to us, truly belongs nothing but humiliation and confusion of face; but to our Lord and our God, glory, honour, power, thanksgiving, and praise.

30*th*.—Since I last wrote, a good deal has passed, and I have been reminded of a saying of Cecil, "We are to follow and not force Providence." Last week, I expected much quiet, except a visit to the convict-ships, instead of which, all my plans for myself were altered by circumstances. At Hampstead, we met a gentleman, Cæsar Malan, from Geneva, who appeared in deep concern for our souls; he seemed to feel our meeting remarkably in the ordering of Providence. His belief is, that we are, as believers, not sufficiently sure of salvation, and that we admit too many doubts and fears, upon the subject; as the promises of God are sure, and that, in not feeling confident, and expressing ourselves to be so, we do harm to the cause. What he said, savoured too much of "once in grace, always in grace;" still, I hope I received a good lesson, which may make me less fearful, and more hopeful. Very likely, I look too much to my own infirmity, and to the power of temptation to separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus and too little up to Him, through whom we are called to become more than conquerors.

Dear William Wilberforce, his wife, and children, dined with us. I think I may say, he is one whom I love in the Lord; and highly "esteem for his work's sake."

This day, though not great in its events, was instructive to me; teaching me, where things do not go on in my way, to be quiet, and trust in small things as in great; that "our steppings are ordered of the Lord," though unworthy of such a favour. I returned to Stamford Hill, through a storm and with some difficulty, because I thought it right to persevere, in case my sick brother and his family should want me. The next morning I had a time in thanksgiving and prayer with them; also, I visited another family, and endeavoured to encourage them in the way of the Lord. The young man, the master of the house told me that I had been made, in days past, a remarkable instrument of good to him, in a religious visit paid to him when visiting families, with William Forster, in Gracechurch Street. I returned home to my beloved family after this expedition, in peace.

I find much advantage and pleasure in rising early in this place. I am dressed about seven, read, meditate, &c., till half-past, then breakfast, and attend to my husband and sons before their going to London. After this, our family reading; it being here more convenient after breakfast than before. Then a devotional reading with the children, and, in the course of the day, I read them one of my brother J. J. Gurney's Essays on Christianity. When quietly here, I often write on the prison cause, also letters of business and friendship, and very much enjoy the rest, and the sweet refreshing beauties of the river and country, so that I find the sort of life we lead useful and pleasant. I have been favoured, at times, with feelings of almost inexpressible peace and love, in the enjoyment of natural and spiritual things.

The return of the season had brought with it, the interest of the annual transportation of female convicts. This year, five ships had been taken up for that purpose. There had been two every year from 1823. In 1827, five ships, as well as in 1826. Four, five, six, were the numbers employed the three following years. Of course, this endeavour on the part of Government to increase the female population in New South Wales, occasioned great expense to the British Ladies' Society, with much additional trouble and fatigue.

Though kind friends and assistants undertook the laborious task of minute preparations for the voyage, Mrs. Fry encouraged them by her presence and example, as far as was compatible with her numerous avocations at home and abroad. She met with much kindness from Admiral (then Captain) Young, Principal Resident Agent of Transports on the River Thames, and his family. Their recollections are vivid of many scenes and transactions, and go far to supply the place of that valuable information which Admiral Young, had he been living, could have himself furnished.

Mrs. Young has often recurred to a farewell visit to a female convict-ship, on the point of sailing, in which she accompanied Mrs. Fry, saying, that she could " scarcely look upon her as any other than an angel of mercy, calmly passing from one to another of the poor wretched beings around her, with the word of counsel, comfort, or reproof, that seemed suited to each individual case, as it presented itself to her notice. With several kind assistants, she was arranging work for them during the voyage; in itself no trifling matter. But many a point of deepest interest and anxiety brought to her ready ear, met with such response as could only be looked for from a devoted follower of Him, who 'went about doing good.' "

On the mind of Miss Young the circumstance was strongly impressed, of accompanying her father (Captain Young) to the female-convict ships, lying off Woolwich, to meet Mr. Wilberforce and Mrs. Fry. " On board one of them, between two and three hundred women were assembled, in order to listen to the exhortation and prayers of, perhaps, the two brightest personifications of Christian philanthropy that the age could boast. Scarcely, could two voices, even so distinguished for beauty and power, be imagined united in a more touching engagement—as indeed was testified by the breathless attention, the tears and the suppressed sobs of the gathered listeners. All of man's word, however there heard, heart-stirring as it was at that time, has faded from my memory; but no lapse of time can ever efface the impression of the 107th Psalm, as read by Mrs. Fry, with such extraordinary emphasis and intonation, that it seemed to make the simple reading a commentary; and, as she passed on from passage to passage, struck my youthful mind, as if the whole series of allusions might have been written by the pen of inspiration, in view of such a scene as was then before us. At an interval of twenty years, it is recalled to me as often as that Psalm is brought to my notice.

"Never, in this world, can it be known to how many hearts its solemn appeals were that day carried home, by that potent voice."

Dagenham, Ninth Month, 4th.—I paid a very interesting visit to two female convict-ships, with my dear sister Elizabeth Fry, and cousin Sarah, last Third-day. We there met William Wilberforce, Sophia Vansittart, and many others. The exercise of my mind was deep, and the trial of body considerable, from the inconvenient situation in which I had to read below deck, surrounded by the poor prisoners and the company. What I feel on such occasions is difficult to describe; that it should all be done unto the Lord—that it should be a time of edification—that none may in any way be hurt by it—that my natural great fear of man, and of his judgment, should in no way influence me; and, lastly, that self may neither glory, if helped, nor be unduly mortified if a cause for humiliation arise. It was a uniting time, I trust; many of the poor prisoners seemed to feel it so, several of them wept. It is an interesting, important service; may it not be neglected when our heads are laid low.

Since I last wrote, I have attended the Quarterly Meeting, at Leighton Buzzard, with my dear brother Samuel Gurney, and my sister Elizabeth Fry. I also paid a visit to the prison at St.

Albans. I can hardly say how sweet were some of the moments I passed in this little journey. It appeared as if I were to go partly for my own sake to be refreshed, and so it proved. The religious services I was called into hardly were a cross, I found my Master's yoke so very easy, even pleasant. I could say, "I delight to do thy will, oh God." I can hardly express the unity of spirit, and the bond of peace, that I felt amongst those who were nearly strangers to me. Oh! what blessings, and what privileges, do the meanest servants of our dear Lord and Master partake of. There is no joy, and no peace, to be compared to the peace and joy attendant upon doing the will of God: it is meat and drink indeed!

To one of her daughters, who had consulted her on the establishment of a Visiting Society.

Plashet, *Tenth Month*, 13*th*.

I hope thou didst not think me inattentive to thy wishes in not writing to thee respecting the District Society, but I was very busy at the time, and I hoped that the papers I forwarded would answer the same purpose. I think much advantage will result from its establishment; I only fear it will rest too much upon thee, and in time become a burden with thy other duties, cares, and delicate health. I think thou art like me, in having rather a calling to the care of the poor, and I rejoice in the belief that thou mayst be a blessing to many of them; but the more thou canst privately be the mover in these good works, the better. I know the pain and difficulty attached to filling foremost places in public works, and DUTY only sustains under it; I also know how apt persons are to push those forward, who are able and willing, even beyond what is desirable for them.

Now for a very particular message to our dear friend Edward Edwards; I have not written to him, for I know that I am but a poor scribe, but I have remembered him and his dear family in their affliction and great privation. I have been glad to hear of the support granted them in the time of trial; I feel for them in the nature of dear Anne Edwards' illness, but I remembered what Job Scott said on this subject, that it is our finite view that makes it painful to us, when disease, as in the case of fever, clouds the mind and affects mental power; it certainly adds to the pain of parting with those we love, but how great the consolation to believe, as in this case, that she, whose loss they mourn, had nothing to do but to die; I trust they will all find the best help near to them. As for dear Edward Edwards, I believe the same goodness and mercy that has hitherto followed him will follow him to the end, until he enters the house of his Lord for ever, to join those who have gone before him, who have washed their garments and make them white in the blood of the Lamb. As for his children, how encouraging it is to observe what a Providential care we see extended to the fatherless and motherless. I think he may indeed trust for his family; they also know where to look for protection, direction and blessing.

My very dear love to thy uncle, and dear Lady Harriet. What a sweet impression their visit has left on our minds, excepting the sorrow about their baby's illness. I am, my beloved child, your tenderly attached mother.

E. F.

P. S.—Though not mentioned, thy darling boys are near my heart, and often thought of by me.

Plashet, Tenth Month.—I have had to attend much to the sorrowful in our congregation at Plaistow. One Friend had her husband die away from her, amongst strangers on the continent; other dear friends of mine had their eldest son drowned in a very distressing manner. I have truly sympathised with them, indeed the last case gave me real pain, and brought me into much conflict of mind. I have deeply felt the weight of being the instrument to minister to them, and for them, in these awful dispensations, that I might not hinder, but promote the intention of Infinite Wisdom and Mercy in permitting them. The poor boy was buried yesterday, the other mourners were present part of the time. My sister Elizabeth Fry, and Cornelius Hanbury were there to aid in the ministry. The anointing for religious service appeared freely poured forth.

Eleventh Month, 13th.—I am now enjoying a little quiet before breakfast, and a beautiful morning. What a delightful relish does religion give to the beauties of creation, and to the blessings granted us of every kind. Indeed, the longer I live, the more ardent is my desire for all, particularly those nearest to me, to partake of this unspeakable gift. The sting and misery of sin in all its forms, with my observation and experience in life, is increasingly evident to me, so that at times my heart is sore pained within me, because so many forget His law; but the text I desire to attend to is this, "I will hope continually and yet praise thee more and more."

18*th.*—I have for some weeks past believed that I must accompany my beloved brother Joseph to Ireland, in the spring to visit Friends, and also the prisons. It is weighty indeed, and my most earnest desire is to be rightly directed in it; that if I ought to go, my way may be made manifest step by step, and that if I ought to stay, it may altogether be obstructed. What am I at home or abroad, unless my Lord be with me to bless my labours? therefore, I can only seek to be altogether passive before Him, praying that He would in His mercy make known His will concerning me, and carry on His own work in me to His own praise. I am very unworthy of being engaged in His service, and always look upon it as an honour that is not my due.

In a letter from Lynn to one of her sisters, Mrs. Fry expresses her anxious desire for right guidance and direction.

Twelfth Month, 15*th.*

My mind is very weightily impressed with the prospect before me, of which my dearest brother and sister can tell thee; I have thought right to speak of it to them, and Frank, and Rachel; they feel much for me in it, and I think are not able really to discourage me from it. I do not feel in high spirits, although I trust that I am sensible of my many causes for thankfulness. My first desire for myself and those I love is, that whatever our circumstances may be, we may be conformed to the Divine Will, and fully experience the salvation which comes by Christ. I hope you will all three, (and dear Francis also if with you,) remember me for good just now, and desire my safe direction in all things.

I am nearly and devotedly yours all,
ELIZABETH FRY.

Mrs. Fry was cheered soon after her return home, by an encouraging letter from her sister, Rachel Gurney, who whilst she saw not with her in all things, nor believed herself called into a similar course, was yet capable of the closest appreciation of her motives of action, and sympathy with her in the pains and efforts involved.

My dearest Betsy,

Thy letter has interested us much to-day; with such a prospect as lies before thee, there must be ups and downs, and close straits to go through, and these will bring thee into some low feelings; but I cannot doubt that the way will in due time be made straight and plain. I am sure thy concerns will be most nearly interesting to us, and I trust we may be enabled to bear them in mind, so as to be good for ourselves, as well as some comfort and help to thee! Aunt Jane invited me to stay at the meeting, whilst our dear brother Joseph laid his concern to accompany thee before it. This was done with much feeling and humility on his own part, and a strong expression of unity from those present. It was a pain to me that he went off to Ipswich, to attend a funeral there, without my seeing him afterwards; but I think the meeting would be altogether encouraging to him. By this we lose him for nearly a week, which has come in as a real blank, from having been unexpected, and having taken him off just as Francis Cunningham and our dear friends the Hankinsons were here. It is a real loss; but we need more willing spirits in the cause of truth and righteousness! This will I trust find thee safely at home again, with our dearest sister Chenda by thy side; I hope thou wilt not be too much overdone to enjoy her company. It is no small thing to have met as we have done!

Thus adds her sister Catharine Gurney :—

"My dearest Betsy,

"I must add a line of sympathy under these weighty concerns, and, as far as I understand the case, of encouragement. I am for thy going, notwithstanding the importance of thy calls at home. I cannot but think the expedition will be made the instrument of great good, probably to yourselves and others. Francis entered warmly into it; he seemed to have no other feeling. This, I think, will give thee satisfaction."

Twelfth Month, 27th.—Last Third-day week, I believed it my duty to lay my concern to visit Ireland, before my Monthly Meeting; at the close of the meeting for worship. We told our dear friends what we had in view, and, feeling the great weight of leaving my family, made me doubt a little, whether Friends could unite in my going; but for all these things, I think I hardly ever felt a more solemn covering over a meeting, both before and after we spoke; and a very unusual number expressed their sympathy, unity, and desire to encourage us; not only the elders and ministers, but the very babes in Christ. There was testimony upon testimony. I felt uncommon peace and relief afterwards, as if the thing was right; many expressed a belief that the Lord would be with us, and preserve us, that He would be our shield and exceeding great reward, that He would go before us, and be our rear-guard.

Dear W. Allen believed "that those who stayed by the stuff would partake of the spoil." I never remember feeling the blessing of Christian love, and unity of spirit, more than at this time, and how truly the members of the Christian Church bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Yesterday, we laid it before our Quarterly Meeting. The certificate having been signed on First-day, to my rejoicing, by all those who I thought might possibly have been somewhat against it, as well as those who I knew heartily united with us. I had, in both the Men and Women's Meeting, to express something, particularly to the youth, that for all the humiliations and deep baptisms attending it, I considered it an honour and favour that I was unworthy of, to be thus made use of in my Master's service; for I could in deed and in truth testify, that there are no ways like His ways, no service like His service, and no joys to be compared to the joys of His salvation. I also addressed the wives and mothers amongst us, on parting from our women Friends, asking not only their sympathy, but their prayers; as "the prayer of the righteous availeth much;" and not only for me, but in a particular manner for those who stayed behind. To-day, my mind feels lightened and peaceful, and I have a confirming hope that this calling is of the Lord, utterly unworthy as I know I am, to do the least thing for such a Master; as for the outward sacrifices attending this step, I count them as nothing, if I may but humbly trust that my most gracious Lord and Master will, through His own power, and His own mercy, keep those who stay, as well as those who go, near to Himself. The pain of leaving my most tenderly beloved family, my comfortable and commodious home, with my delicate bodily frame, is a sacrifice most willingly made by me, if those left do not suffer harm by it. I believe I must go in faith, nothing doubting; trusting all to Him, who knows the deep, earnest petitions of my heart, for them and for us, and who can work with or without instrumentality. The certificate granted us, by our Quarterly and Monthly Meeting, was this:—

"To Friends of the Nation of Ireland.

"Dear Friends,—Our beloved Friend, Elizabeth Joseph Fry, has, in a weighty manner, informed this Meeting, that her mind has been for many years impressed with a belief, that it would be required of her to offer to pay a religious visit to the Meetings of Friends in Ireland, pretty generally; and, also, to stand resigned to further religious service, both amongst Friends, and those not of the Society, as truth might open the way, and that she apprehended the time was nearly come for her to enter thereon. Our beloved Friend Elizabeth Fry, also informed the Meeting, that she believed it right to offer to accompany her sister in the said visit, as her mind had been somewhat similarly impressed for many years past. The said proposals, having had our deliberate and solid consideration, and much unity and sympathy having been felt and expressed with our dear friends, we think it right to set them at liberty to perform the same: informing you that they are ministers of the gospel, in unity and good esteem with us. We commend them to the affectionate care of those amongst whom their lot may be cast. We desire their preservation in a humble dependence on the great Head of the Church, for daily supplies of wisdom and strength, that they may thereby be enabled to perform the work assigned them, to the promotion of the cause of truth and righteousness, and to the peace of their own minds. We remain, in love, your friends. Signed in Radcliff and Barking Monthly Meeting, held at Plaistow, by adjournment, the 24th of Twelfth Month, 1826.

"Signed by forty men, and thirty women."

At a Quarterly Meeting, for London and Middlesex, held the 26th of Twelfth Month, 1826—

"Our beloved friends, E. J. Fry, and E. Fry, have attended this Meeting, and in a feeling manner opened before it the concern described in the foregoing certificate. This Meeting, after a time of solid consideration, and under a feeling of much unity and sympathy with them, in reference to the arduous prospect before them, unites in setting them at liberty; desiring, that they may experience the preservation and guidance of the Shepherd of Israel, and be permitted, when the service allotted to them is performed, to return with the reward of peace.

"Signed in, and on behalf of, the Meeting, by
"PETER BEDFORD, *Clerk*.
"Signed in, and on behalf of, the Women's Meeting,
"HANNAH MESSER, *Clerk*."

This important point obtained, and the unity of her friends officially expressed; Elizabeth Fry prepared, with her companions, for their departure, after making various arrangements to ensure the comfort of her family during her absence.

TO HER SISTERS, CATHERINE AND RACHEL GURNEY.

Plashet, *First Month, 3rd,* 1827.

My dearest Catherine and Rachel,

It appears too long since I wrote to you, and since I received your welcome letters. I was rejoiced at our brother Joseph's good account of you. I got through the Quarterly Meeting most satisfactorily. I hardly ever remember such a current of love and unity poured forth on such an occasion; which was particularly comforting, under my peculiar home circumstances. We have had Dr. Pinkerton, his wife, and three of his children, here since Second day: I have valued their company. We had, last evening, a large party of young people to meet them, and a very cheerful time they had; but, I think, a very innocent one. I like to see young persons happy and merry; it reminded me of some of our days, that are not only passed, but appear now quite in the distance. I felt a little doubtful whether to have it, but I yielded the point to the children, and am glad to say, I see no cause to repent it. I suppose I shall have many farewell visits; indeed, we are full of engagements. I have been deeply interested about the poor woman who was hanged yesterday, in Newgate. Her end, I trust, was happy. I have had much to feel about her; it is such awful work, thus prematurely to have a fellow-creature launched into eternity!

On Second-day, we had a very long British Society committee; that cause, I think, yet prospers much. It was a solemn time, and an encouraging one to us to go forward. My curious book, I hope, will be useful, and promote the cause.* The children are now generally well and comfortable. My dearest husband talks of going to Dublin with us, or else meeting us on our return.

I write this flat letter in haste: it is hardly worth your having; but, as I have so little time for writing, I should like it forwarded to my dearest Rachel, at Lynn. I am sorry to hear of dear Sarah B.'s trying accident; express my dear love and sympathy to her. Our brother Joseph appeared well and comfortable; he dined, and spent a valuable evening with us here, on First-day.

---

* Observations on the Visiting, Superintending, and Government of Female Prisoners. By Elizabeth Fry. 1827.

In abundance of love to you, and at Lynn, I am your nearly attached

E. F.

To her Daughter, Mrs. Francis Cresswell.

Plashet, *Second Month*, 1*st*.

My dearest Rachel,

As the time for my departure for Ireland is now drawing near, I feel bound, in this way, in the most tender manner, to bid thee FAREWELL, in every sense of the word. May the Almighty be with, and bless thee and thine, my much-loved child; and, above all things, increasingly manifest Himself, in His own power, to your souls, to your edification and consolation, your help and strength. I feel as if my family must increasingly show themselves on the Lord's side, simply, humbly, and faithfully, holding up His standard of truth, and of righteousness; in which belief I include thee and thy husband. The time is short; we can none, therefore, too soon give ourselves up wholly to the Lord, for our own sakes, and the sake of others.

I feel peaceful in my prospect of departure, though deeply unworthy, and naturally unfit for such a service; but my hope is in this, that "help is laid upon One that is mighty," who alone can enable me to do all things to His praise.

I have abundance to do; therefore in near love, once more, I say to thee and the boys, farewell in the Lord.

Thy loving, tender mother,

E. F.

On the 4th of February, Elizabeth Fry, with her brother Joseph John Gurney, commenced their journey towards Ireland. They were joined on the road by her sister-in-law. Acutely did she feel leaving her family, and most painful was it to them to part with her; nor was the trial lessened by some of her children as they advanced in life, not being altogether satisfied as to these engagements, or able to comprehend how a career so peculiar, could be consistent with their mother's domestic duties. It required the wonderful results of her exertions, and the practical effects of these journeys, to convince them, that it was by the great Head of the Church, that she was "put forth" for such services.

Her last sabbath at home she thus describes:—

The First-day preceding my leaving home, was most interesting. In the first place, I had all the servants collected at the morning reading, and expressed very fully my desires for them, and their preservation in the right way, which they appeared to feel a good deal, and it was a heart-tendering time. My beloved John and his Rachel were staying with us, and their sweet babe. Before meeting, I had the children a little while alone, and the meeting was in no common degree solemn. The afternoon meeting, if any thing, was still more so, the ministry very lively and refreshing. My dearest sister, Louisa Hoare was with us to my real comfort; my brother, William Fry and his children were at both meetings. In the evening, we had a large number to tea, and at our evening reading. It was very interesting taking leave of my most dearly beloved family. The presence of the Most High appeared to overshadow us; prayer was offered again and again, and testimony upon testimony was given. One Friend expressed his full belief that we should return in peace and safety, and that no harm would come nigh my dwelling; a general feeling of the rectitude of our going was no small comfort. The next morning, I bid my darling children farewell in their beds. I left home about six o'clock, accompanied by my sons William and Joseph. My natural pain in parting with those most tenderly beloved, was mitigated by a portion of that peace the world cannot give, in making what I trust was a sacrifice well pleasing to the best of Masters.

Extracts from her own letters, furnish not merely the history of her journey, but an account of her natural fears, and her spiritual consolations—the difficulties that appeared before her, and the power by which she was enabled to surmount them. Written in haste, and often when greatly wearied, these letters have nothing to recommend them but their truth, simplicity and earnestness of feeling; but those who wish to follow her through the journey of life, not only in what she did, but what she thought and felt in doing, will prefer them, such as they are, to a more laboured history related by others.

Melksham, *Second Month, 6th.*

My much-loved Husband, Children, Brothers and Sisters,

I now commence the journal of my journey, which I desire regularly to keep until I may be favoured to return home. This, it is my expectation that I shall do; but if in the ordering of Infinite Wisdom, it should not be the case, may all concerned, be enabled to bow to the dispensations of the Most High; for in all He doeth, He doeth well.

On leaving my sweet dwelling, and my much-loved family, I felt very quiet, as if after all the deep feeling of the day before, I had only to rest, and could almost have thought myself insensible to what I was doing. After a refreshing breakfast at Mildred's Court, we set off, leaving William and Joseph; I felt, dear fellows, as if I had not in parting nearly enough expressed my abounding love, and my sense of their kindness in accompanying us there. We had a pleasant journey; the company of my beloved husband and brother delightful. We were received here with great kindness and hospitality. I have just been refreshing myself by a walk in a farm-yard, with an old farmer, and have bought a nice cheese for Plashet, which I hope you will like; it should be kept several months before it is eaten. The most important feature of this day, so far, has been parting with my dearest husband. I was enabled to commend him unto Him, who can alone bless and preserve us, whether together or separate. How very, very near you feel to my heart, and how sweet it is, as time advances, to find that our spiritual, as well as our natural bonds increase in strength, which I may thankfully acknowledge I believe to be our case.

Fourth day, evening, Worcester.—My brother Joseph and I left Melksham after breakfast, this morning. I passed a comfortable night, more so than I could have expected, but there is a power that makes up our losses, particularly when in the way of our duty; surely bearing our cross in small and great things, for what we believe to be, the sake of the cause of righteousness, brings peace with it. We travelled through a beautiful country: the Vale of Rodborough affectingly reminded me of days that are passed; we saw, at Malmsbury, some most beautiful Saxon or ancient gothic architecture. Our distribution of tracts on the road has been really entertaining, it was pleasant to see how gratefully received. We are now in excellent quarters, so farewell for to-night.

We left H. Newman's, after a most hospitable reception, before eight this morning, and have been travelling all day, except stopping at Colebrook Dale to dinner, where I was reminded of very interesting and important days of my youth; some very sweet ones that were passed in this black-faced country. We met a pleasant party of the Darby family to dinner, many of them I think you know, and a very interesting party of the youth, both boys and girls, young men and maidens: whilst my dear companions gave them a little good advice, I went up stairs, and had some rest. Several little things have given me pleasure on the journey; the good appearance of the poor, and I should hope their general prosperity; the animals also,—beautiful deer, sheep, and lambs, and many delightful prospects; but the thoughts of my beloved family often come in—your kindness on my departure and before it—you each come before me with so much love and unity. I often think of dearest sister Rachel, and hope her cough is better, and my children at Lynn. I feel grateful for your aunt Hoare's kindness to me, and to you; let her know about me, and let me know how her dear little Richard goes on. I feel rather odd to be here, away from you all, but the duty which brings me here makes it easy, otherwise I should feel sadly out of my place; but I am bountifully provided for, much more so than I desire. Your uncle's kindness and attention almost unbounded, and your aunt also very kind. Farewell for to-night, my much-loved husband, children, &c., &c.

Sixth-day evening, Holy Head.—We arrived here about eight o'clock, after a beautiful journey: at least the greater portion of it. I never saw such scenery,—the rocky mountains with long icicles hanging from them, and sheets of ice over parts of them—the mountain torrents full and strong—and the sun just enlightening the tops of some of the mountains, whilst others were in deep shadow. You can hardly conceive the grandeur and beauty of the scene. As a work of art, the Menai Bridge exceeds any thing I ever saw, its principle being so simple, yet so wonderful.

Dublin, *Second Month, 14th.*

My dearest Children,

I told my tale up to First-day evening. On Second-day morning we visited the Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb, kept by Joseph Humphreys, a very interesting institution, well situated within sight of the Dublin Bay; his collection of Irish shells is beautiful, he means to procure me some of them, with their names, and some minerals. We made calls on the aged and sorrowful, came home, rested, and dressed; then went to dine and spend the evening at Robert Fayle's, where we met about seventy Friends, it was the place my dearest sister Priscilla stayed at, when she was here; it is very striking to me to observe, there, and amongst many Friends, the effect of her labours. We had an interesting evening with this large party of fine comely young persons; your uncle and I told them anecdotes that we thought useful and desirable. The Irish are a very interesting people. Religion has done much amongst Friends and others, and will I believe do yet more, and so regulate and further polish them, as to bring forth their bright, and overcome their darker qualities. I like the people, and always did; they are very kind to us. Engagements are thickening upon us: one Roman Catholic lady has called, a charming woman, and through her means we are likely to visit the Nuns on Sixth-day. This evening, we propose having a meeting for the youth; on Sixth-day, for older Friends in the evening, and for the public in the morning; next week we look to the prisons and public institutions. Farewell for to-day, in dearest love.

E. F.

Fifth-day, one o'clock.—We breakfasted at the Castle, at Major Sirr's, where we met a number of interesting people; he is in office, one of the heads of police. In the cross, yet in the power, we had a religious time with them. Afterwards we saw a most curious and beautiful collection of antiquities found in the bogs, and other places in this country; also minerals and shells, one a most rare specimen. Since I came home, many have called. Very striking is the work going on in this land, it appears the time for those who love the truth, to labour for it.

"Dublin, *Second Month, 17th.*

My dearest Husband,

* * * * *

After I sent off my letter on Fifth-day, we went to the castle to call on the gentleman, who, in the absence of the Secretary of State, is acting as such. He treated us with great kindness, and appeared really pleased at our visiting Ireland: he has invited us to dine with him next Second-day. We then went to A. Maginn's office, he was also truly kind, and says he will forward any letters for us. We dined with a valuable Friend, Sarah Phelps, and met several Friends. My dear sister Elizabeth all this time was completely poorly, and confined mostly in bed, at the house of our kind friends, Jonathan and Eliza Pim, where we are so hospitably entertained, when to my sorrow, my brother Joseph was taken in the same way; in the evening, he felt himself really ill, so that what with our many guests, and my two patients, you may fancy me (more particularly as Joseph is in the next house, and Elizabeth up high flights of stairs), rather overpressed; each had a medical attendant—however, the next morning, my brother was able to go to Meeting, it was a public one, he preached there as he generally does, much in the demonstration of the Spirit, and of power.

I had the comfort in the morning, to have both my patients better, and I hope it was not a want of resignation, anxiously to desire their recovery; it reminded me of Paul, how much he wished for his companion's revival, lest he should have sorrow upon sorrow. We received afterwards many persons, not Friends, Lady Lorton and others; Joseph and I went to wait on the

Lord Lieutenant (Lord Wellesley), by his desire, we had a very gratifying and satisfactory interview. His views and ours appeared perfectly to correspond on many things of importance, particularly the subject of punishment. Lady Wellesley was ill, or, he said, she wished to see me. I forgot to tell thee, that I paid a very nice visit to the nunnery of the Sisters of Charity, and heard many particulars of their institution and of their plans; we also had some interesting conversation of a religious nature, with them. You all know how deeply I have felt being away from my beloved husband and children, but I think I never remember being any where, with such an opening for service in every way, religiously, morally, and in benevolent objects. Our being esteemed, as in truth we are, quiet and conciliatory in our views, and our being of no party in religion or politics, appears just now important. But if we are the least useful, we must remember that all our powers are gifts. Yesterday, we had crowded meetings, and we had all three in no common degree, to press the point of looking less to the ministers, and more to the Minister of ministers. More of Christian charity, and being all one in Christ, appears the thing wanted here; there is certainly a great portion of light, and many individuals who seem to be very serious and spiritual.

The people are powerful, and warm-hearted, but not, I think, possessing more feeling, or sensitiveness, than the English. They appear to me formed, bodily and mentally, in a more hardy mould. This city is very fine, its houses and buildings above the mode of living, or the state of the inhabitants.

I feel (notwithstanding the illness of my dear companions) that we are rightly together, for with such a weight of various services, a treble cord was wanted for strength.

Dublin, *Second Month.*

My dearest Children,

To go on with our journal: on Fourth-day, after I sent my letter off, we visited four prisons—some of them in a most deplorable state, particularly those for debt—almost the deepest distress I ever witnessed. We hope that some remedy may be found. Should this prove the case, it will be a strong confirmation of our being in our right place; as I find, that those, who can help in these things, are willing to listen to us.

We dined at the house of the temporary Secretary of State. We met there, the Archbishop of Tuam, and many connected with him; Lady Ann Gregory is his sister. Highly valuable and agreeable people, indeed. I think I never, any where, saw so many serious people; surely, the true leaven, more or less, is affecting the whole lump.

Yesterday was the week-day meeting; crowds attended, and very solemn it was. I forgot to say, that when visiting the prisoners the day before, the judges were sitting in the court, and sent for us to go to them there. Picture your uncle, myself, and some other Friends, in a crowded court, sitting beside the judges. I could but be reminded of the difference of our situation, to that of Friends formerly, taken into the courts in time of persecution, and so cruelly treated; but my belief is, that their standing their ground as they did, prepared the way for even these services. "They laboured, and we have entered into their labours." May the same power preserve us, in what may appear heights, as it did them in depths.

After writing so far, we went to breakfast at a lady's named Hoare, some relation to your uncle Hoare, many met us there. After a religious time with them, we went to the Bridewell, to meet a large number of ladies, to form and arrange their prison committees. This was a very arduous, but a very important business; I trust, things are now put in good training, so that if we do nothing else, it appears almost worth while to have come here for this day's work.

Almost as soon as we returned from the prison, we had to go to the park, for me to see Lady Wellesley. I paid her a very interesting visit; she is a sweet woman, and, I think, serious. She is a Roman Catholic. We next went to call on the Roman Catholic Archbishop, and, as the Protestant one is now, I believe, here I must stop.

My dearest Husband,

I feel that my journal was cut too short at Dublin, from a press upon me, which appeared unavoidable. I left off, I think, before we visited the House of Industry, almost the most interesting institution I ever saw; but, being accompanied by (I should think) nearly a hundred persons, added to the fatigue, and lessened the pleasure. Afterwards, we had quite an entertainment from the governor, as luncheon. Seeing the lunatics, gave me real pleasure; their order, comfort, and industry, appeared to be great. We then visited the Richmond Lunatic Asylum, and part of the great Government Prison. After one of the most crowded Meetings I ever attended, and I think, one of the most solemn, we paid another visit to the Government Prison, and then took our departure from our most kind friends, and the highly interesting city of Dublin; with, I believe I may say, thankful and peaceful hearts, under a deep feeling that "hitherto the Lord had helped us," and out of "weakness we had been made strong." We had a dark evening drive of many hours, to James Forbes', at Christianstown, near Rathangan, where we found every comfort. We had two Meetings the next day at Edenderry; nothing but turf-fires, and the aspect of things very different to England. The next evening we travelled again, and were not fully expected; but fires soon burnt up, and after a while, a nice supper refreshed us.

Armagh, *Second Month*, 28*th*.

My dearest Children,

We are here comfortably settled by a nice fire-side, in a good inn, and in what appears to be, as far as we can judge, rather a fine city. We left Lord Bective's yesterday, about twelve o'clock, and then went with Lady Bective, and others, to see her charities, and a sad little prison. After this, we set forward to Coote Hill, two stages, each about twelve Irish miles, which, I can assure you, was a fatiguing day's journey; we dared not stop to dine, and were about six hours on the road, or more, which was done with difficulty, with four horses, the roads were so very bad. The boggy country has a peculiar and desolate look; the generally miserable cabins, and appearance of the poor (though most of the women have cloaks, and the men great coats,) give a very different appearance from England. There is also a general want of order in the manner of cultivating the ground; the hedges half down, and badly kept, excepting near gentlemen's places, where things bear a different aspect. We observed a number of goats; I suppose they use their milk. Pigs abound; I think they have rather a more elegant appearance than ours, their hair often curled—naturalists perhaps may attribute this to their intimate association with their betters! The turf-fires, mostly used in the neighbourhood of the bogs, are pleasant. We yesterday, met a true Irish funeral; it was a curious sight, and really surprising to see how neat and clean the people turned out of their dirty cabins, some were really good-looking. The howl (if it was the howl) was like a dirge—melancholy, but rather pleasing. We have not lately had so much begging, as nearer Dublin, or the appearance of so much distress. We had a curious Meeting this morning of Friends, respectable persons, labourers, and the very poor people, many, I believe, Roman Catholics.

We have travelled again to-day, twenty-four miles; more fatiguing, I can assure you, than to travel fifty miles in England; but we have not been on the best roads. We visited a large prison at Monaghan, and to-morrow we hope to visit one here, and a Lunatic Asylum; also, to form a committee at Lady Lifford's, to attend a Meeting some miles off, and then to go forward to sleep at Thomas Greer's. Our life is a busy one, certainly. So now, my much-loved family, I bid you farewell for this evening.

Thomas Greer's, Rhone Hill, Sixth-day morning.—Yesterday, we began our morning with some Friends to breakfast at the inn, and after reading, we set off to the prison. It was a fine day, and we had a pleasant walk to it. Several were waiting for us, both gentlemen and ladies. We had, for the first time, a religious opportunity with the prisoners; first, Elizabeth and myself, with the women, then all of us, with the men. The Roman Catholics appear very hard to reach; but with the poor men, I think, the power of truth reigned over all, and their spirits appeared brought down. We then went to the Lunatic

Asylum, which was in delightful order; then to Lady Lifford's, where we found an excellent committee. We had a religious time with this charming lady, and then went forward to a Meeting at Rich Hill, a curious place, and as curious a congregation, but we had a good Meeting. Afterwards, by some accident, I went into a private house, thinking it was the inn, and gave orders as if at an inn; I ordered tea immediately, and begged to be shown to a bed-room, for my sister to lie down, as she was but poorly. At last I discovered my droll, and at first, disagreeable mistake; but such was Irish hospitality, that the lady of the house made us stay, gave us some tea, comforted us up, and sent us off, not knowing whom she had received, nor do we know her name. We then had an easy drive here, horses good, roads better; but both my dear companions far from well. I feel we have much cause for thankfulness; we are daily provided for; and may, through unmerited mercy, say with the disciples formerly, to the query, "Lackest thou any thing?" "Nothing Lord"—except to be better ourselves, and more fit for such a service.

Lisburn, *Third Month, 4th.*

My dearest Husband,

I yesterday had the real comfort of receiving letters, in the evening, from home. I was made quite cheerful by it, and weighty as it is to begin upon a new field of service in these parts, yet I went light-hearted on my way, and, I trust I may say, thankful.

I am sorry to hear of our poor friend William Morley's state, and particularly wish to be affectionately remembered to him, and to have him told how much I desire that, as his flesh and his heart fail, he may know the Lord truly to be the strength of his heart, and eventually, through His unmerited mercy in Christ Jesus, to become his portion for ever; he must cast himself, just such as he is, on Christ his Saviour, the propitiatory sacrifice for our sins, whose mercies are unbounded.

Now for my journal—after I last wrote, we attended a large Meeting of Friends at Grange, where unbelief formerly, had made much devastation; we were enabled to preach Christ, I trust in power, and it appeared a very solemn time. We find the Meeting we had at Coote Hill made a great impression in the place, particularly amongst the Roman Catholics; numbers have been since to the Friend's house where we slept, for tracts; he had given three hundred away. We arrived here, and had a most hearty reception from Jonathan Richardson and his brother; their kindness is very great to us poor travellers. Yesterday, we had Friends very much alone in the morning, and a very crowded Meeting for others in the evening, painfully so to me; I was so much afraid the house was not safe, and I believe one of the higher galleries creaked; it was however, well got through. What a day this is in Ireland! something of a shaking in religion, only there is such a field of service open, that it seems as if we hurried a little from the different places; but we desire to do our best. We have met with a delightful old minister here, John Conran, a most able gospel preacher, eighty-eight years old, he has stood through every storm in the time of heresy here; he was desired to quit the gallery, and no longer to preach, but he kept steady to his gift, and his sun is indeed setting in brightness; he is a man of good family, who came into our Society by convincement. I think such an instance of a lively spirit in old age, is a powerful evidence of the truth of religion, and that there is a principle above the natural part in man, which lives and flourishes when the other part declines. I must now go to breakfast, looking to the Quarterly Meeting to-day. May best help be with us, and grace, mercy, and peace with you. Amen.

Third-day Morning.—We had a very satisfactory Quarterly Meeting. We are now returned from a concluding Meeting of worship, one of the most solemn, and striking, I ever attended; the good power and anointing distilled as the dew amongst us, to the great refreshment, I believe, of all present. The ministry of the old Friend was wonderful—his experience of the power of light, life, and salvation striking; he overflowed with love, and the doctrine he preached a strong proof of the reality of that power which remains after all the rest is shaken. When the reality of these truths are brought home to us, how earnest becomes the desire for all whom we love, to be made partakers of such a benefit. May husband, children, brothers, sisters, and all near and dear to me, partake of this joyous, glorious, full salvation!

We have here delightful quarters at John Bell's. We dined and rested, then called on some of the sick and sorrowful; after which, we proceeded to our Public Meeting, to be held in a large school-room at the top of a high building. Feel for us —upon our arrival, the crowd was so great and the press such, that when we endeavoured to ascend the stair-case, I thought we must give up the attempt; however, after great pressing, we were driven into such an assembly, that my poor heart almost sank, I so extremely feared accident, whether the building or the floor would not give way under the weight, however, in tender mercy, after a little while quietness reigned; I had a few words to say, which appeared to tranquillize the assembly, and then your uncle was enabled beautifully to preach the glad tidings of the gospel of Christ. I did afterwards say something, but in weakness, as my voice nearly failed me. Your aunt spoke powerfully, and I had power given me to offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and prayer at the end. All dispersed without injury, I trust peaceful and edified; but your dear uncle and myself had had such a shake, that we both passed very poor nights. I felt a little like Peter on the waters, as if fears got too much hold of me, and made me ready to sink; your aunt was sadly crushed. We set off after breakfast to the Bridewell, numbers with us; but we hope that good resulted, and we are to form a committee to visit it. We proceeded to Carrickfergus, a very interesting place, and a most beautiful drive to it; we passed a fine old castle by the sea. We visited a sad prison, and formed a Ladies' Committee; also committees for visiting different charities, and had a large meeting of ladies.

To her Son William Storrs Fry.

Londonderry, *Third Month,* 18*th.*

My dearest William,

I have now matter for a very interesting letter, if I can get time to write it. After my last communication, we went to a second Public Meeting, which was very large and satisfactory.

We dined at our dear hospitable friend's, and in the evening, thy uncle went to have a Public Meeting at Carrickfergus, whilst we had a Meeting with the benevolent ladies, to form committees to visit their different institutions, which had in Belfast answered well.

We met a cheerful party in the evening, when our labours were concluded, and set off the next morning:—a pleasant company, and the weather bright. We had with us, Thomas Wakefield, John Christy, and William Bell, all superior Friends, and highly esteemed. Our drive was beautiful, by the lake called Lough Neagh, one of the finest pieces of water, looking like the sea, without a boundary to the eye, in parts. Lord O'Neal's place is situated on its banks; we passed through its beautiful scenery. We slept at a Moravian settlement, where we were pleased and interested, and met a gentleman and lady, who said they knew thee, and had seen thee at Herrnhut, with Dr. Pinkerton. We had no religious time with them, but were interested by the whole thing, though I wanted them to do more good to the community generally, instead of confining their exertions so exclusively to their own body. We then set off to a curious little country meeting, dined at a public-house, in a small town, where we were almost mobbed for tracts; the energy for knowledge is great, very different to what we expected, great eagerness evident in the public mind for more religious light. Some think there is the beginning of a reformation here, but I believe this work will be very gradual; much is, however, going on, of a highly interesting nature. We had a meeting, in the evening, in an out of the way-farm-house, and slept there. Kindness and cleanliness made all pleasant. We went forward to Coleraine, and as we had a leisure morning, and were only ten miles from the Giant's Causeway, we thought that we ought to visit it; a fine expedition we had, and an adventurous one—two horses tumbling down, pouring rain, and so forth. However, we persevered, and first visited a very fine ruined castle, built on a rock projecting into the sea, called Dunluce Castle. There is a little bridge from one rock to another, without defence of any kind. It was a very fine scene—beautiful black rocks, forming a sort of amphitheatre on each side of it. We went on in pouring rain and violent wind, to the Causeway, and found, as usual, that we were quiet deceived in the distance. After walking over rocks, and at the edge of cliffs, nearly overwhelmed with wet, we opened upon this wonderful work of nature; like an unfinished building, formed of stones fitted into each other, being concave and convex, and so rising in pillars of different heights. some with three sides, some as many as nine, of various colours, I am glad we saw it, as a fresh proof of the wonderful and various works of God.

I hardly knew how I should be able to get back, from the painful effect, walking up hill in the wind, has on me; however, by the help of some poor working men, I at last effected it. Thy aunt was able to manage better than I did, being light, they carried her over all difficult parts. Curiosities abounded, stones, spar, &c., &c.; but my excessive fatigue prevented my having wit to get what I ought, however, I did obtain some. In a place like this, abounding with beauties, both grand and minute, I could delight myself for days with my beloved family.

I have almost ruined my cloak and bonnet, being nearly wet through. We arrived in time at Coleraine, for a large Public Meeting in the town. The next morning we set off for this place, passing by the beautiful Lough Foyle, partly a gulf from the sea. This is one of the most beautiful towns, as to situation, I ever saw, strongly fortified by a wall, so wide that there is a walk upon it; a fine river flows before it.

We found, on our arrival, that all our letters had miscarried; but we had not been long here, before the Bishop, his wife, the Mayor, Magistrates, and Prison Inspector, came to visit us, trying to help us in every way. We dined at the palace; but, for all this kindness from man, I felt low and sunk, under an awful feeling of service in the place. To-day, we have had one meeting attended by all descriptions of persons.

Evening.—We are just come in after a very large meeting, held in the Presbyterian Meeting-house. Since that, we have been reading to the prisoners, and forming a committee to visit the women.

Omagh, *Third Month,* 19*th.*

My dearest Children,

My letter of yesterday, was so far from giving a full account of some of our interesting proceedings, that, as we are stopped here from the want of horses (being assize time), I shall begin another letter. I think you will be amused to hear, that upon our arrival at Londonderry, we were saluted by a peal of bells; some of the party thought they were for us, which proved true, as we found afterwards, by a very curious letter from the ringers.

The manners of the people in the north of Ireland and their dress much resemble the Scotch; most of them, even the poor, are neat, though without shoes and stockings. I am sorry to say, the great numbers that we find in the prisons, prove an unsettled state in the country; but, I think, there is a good deal to excite their bad feelings, and, in some parts, they are almost starving, though this is not by any means generally the case in the north. We never go many miles without passing much bog which is valuable, as it affords such good fireing; and we see continually cabins made of little else than turf, with a hole at the top, for the chimney, much like those in Scotland. We have this morning visited the Prison, the Lunatic Asylum, and Infirmary at Lifford; and the Prison, and Infirmary here. We think that in their institutions, there is a great spirit of improvement; though some of them remain in a deplorable state. The Infirmary we visited to-day, was so; I found there a poor patient without any linen, laid between blankets, and in an exceedingly dirty state; but this is not common, some are in beautiful order.

Boyle, *Third Month,* 22*nd.*

My dearest Husband,

Since I last wrote, we have passed a very interesting time. We got up about four o'clock. On our way to Enniskillen, stopped at a curious public-house for breakfast, where we saw a good deal of the people, who flocked after us for tracts. I wish I could picture to you the scene, in a mud-floored parlour, with a turf fire. I took my seat some time in the curious kitchen, to talk to the family. After a time, they sent out to buy us a little bread, and some eggs. We fared well, and had a cheerful meal in our humble abode. The roads bad, and horses bad; we got on very slowly, going twenty miles in about six hours. The roads, too, are often dangerous, many of them being raised very high, without wall or hedge of any kind. In several places, a precipice on each side. Much of it through bog; indeed, I think, we have not passed a stage, since we left Dublin, without part of it being through black bog. We reached Enniskillen in time to visit the Infirmary and Prison, and to form a Ladies' Committee. We are shocked to find so many bad cases of murder and cruelty in the prisons; it shows an awful state of things, proving extreme moral degradation in this part of Ireland. We saw six men, who had through enmity knocked a man's head to pieces, and then put his body down a cave, where it was found. Another instance of burning, nearly to death, a woman, with whom they were angry.

With these impressions, as to the state of this part of the country, we all felt a little alive to our own safety, but were obliged to set off for our journey to Sligo, because we could not otherwise accomplish all we had in view. We could have no other horses, than those from Omagh. We went forward by the side of a fine lake and beautiful rocks and mountains, till we got to a house half-way from the place of our destination. We had been nearly five hours going about fourteen miles, and had eight or nine more to go; the question was, whether to pass the night in this solitary public-house, or go on with the same horses. Our dear Irish friends were evidently unwilling that we should remain; therefore, though close by the place of the sad murder that had just happened, we took courage, and set off again.

A curious dark drive we had; but our friends accompanying us, and the belief that we were in our right place, took away fear, on my part at least. We expected to arrive at a nice inn to sleep; but, to our great disappointment, after our fagging day, we arrived between ten and eleven o'clock at night, at a miserable dirty public-house; and we did not get even eggs or bacon, nor ourselves settled, some in one house, and some in another, till one o'clock in the morning. You will not wonder when I tell you we passed rather a nervous night. The next morning, we went to Sligo, a highly interesting place. We found in that prison again cases of murder; but much as there is of fearful evil, there is great good also stirring, many Roman Catholics turning to Protestantism, several of whom we met this morning; they appear highly interesting, and to be a spiritual people. We spent the evening at the Rector's, met a very large party, and formed a fresh Committee, though two ladies have already done wonders here in the prison. The High Sheriff and the Clergy were most kind to us. The inn was so full, we had a private lodging, and were treated by the mistress of the house with no common attention. We had this morning, a large Public Meeting, which appeared to give much satisfaction to our numerous new friends. We parted in real love from the people of the place, and then set off here, paying visits to two cabins by the way. We have had no further adventure. Imagine us in the cabin round a turf fire on a mud floor, a hole in the top for a chimney, a little dirty straw on the floor for them to sleep, as the woman said, "up and down in the room." Some heath and turf for fireing, no windows, and two little dirty benches to sit on; the husband, wife, and children, round the boiling potatoes; they offered us "a prater and an egg;" though so poor, so hospitable!

Moate.—We slept at a tolerable inn at Boyle, and went on to Roscommon, where, in the prison (as usual in these parts) were murderers; and, at the county town of Westmeath, fifteen men, all to suffer death (I believe) for murder. The little Meeting was fully attended at Ballymurray. It is curious to observe the efforts made to attend these Meetings, by persons generally. After Meeting, it was late, and report said that stones were laid on the road to stop our progress, from some evil design, on our way to the farm-house where we were to sleep; but happily, this proved false. No fire in our room; still, I did well, and we had much to enjoy, and be thankful for. We are struck by the true kindness of the Friends, and with the effects of true religion, in changing the nature of this people; making them clean, courteous, and gentle.

We got up soon after five o'clock, and set off for Moate; in passing through a large town, we found an eager desire for tracts, before we were through the town, persons running after the carriage for them—when, out came a man from one of the houses, a sort of lay priest (we suppose), stopped those who were near us with an austere countenance, and made the people tear them in our presence. A priest did the same with one of Joseph's tracts; they delight in receiving them generally, when out of sight of their rulers. A want of horses made us late here, and in passing through another large town, we were requested to have a Public Meeting, the room all ready for us, which we did not accept. To-day, we begin the Quarterly Meeting, which is a weighty prospect.

Our dear friends, who are so kindly yet accompanying us; had a trial last night, in hearing that sixteen armed men had broken into a house very near theirs, where they have left their wives and children. A Friend, who would keep arms in his house, and did not keep to our peaceable principle, was murdered near where we were yesterday; and I hear that the woman Friend, who was murdered, was a strange person. The Sheriff of Roscommon said, "the sword of the Spirit was the best defence in this land."

Third Month, 30th. Galway, First-day morning.—Here we are, in the midst of what appears gross darkness; hardly any Protestants, and the Roman Catholics in a highly irritable state, so much so, that the Mayor has just called to say, he thinks a guard ought to attend us at our Meetings. This of course we cannot accept. We look forward with some anxiety to our day; but not without hope. I had meant to send this letter this morning, but shall now wait till we see how the day is accomplished.——Our Meeting is well over. In the first place, we had about three hundred persons in the Assembly Room at this inn, it was very much like being surrounded by those whom we should suppose knew little or nothing of religion; as for Friends, and women's preaching, it was a marvel indeed to them; I never was in a place apparently so dark. The Sabbath hardly at all kept, except in going to their places of worship; but to tell you of the meeting—there was one continued bustle until I knelt in prayer; then your uncle spoke at considerable length, and there was something like quiet; he enlarged beautifully on Christian love and charity, which appears so extremely wanted here, (there is so much contention). After he sat down, I rose and said, that when the women brought word that our Saviour was risen, the disciples believed that they were "idle tales," partly, probably, because the instruments were weak who conveyed the tidings, and so it might then be, but I hoped they would lay aside prejudice and not consider what we call "idle tales," because, we who spoke them were also weak instruments. The people were very attentive, and a solemn time we had, though so curious a one; this afternoon, we had another Meeting of about a thousand persons, different to any thing I ever witnessed. We had close exercise of spirit, and to our blessed Lord alone could we look for help. Such an assembly of Roman Catholics, for any such purpose, was never known to have met before; some were heard to say, that if we held them, they would attend them every evening in the week, for all their priests. The Stream gradually rose in the Meeting, until it overflowed its banks; but how do you think it ended? Those in the lower part of the room, showed their satisfaction by knocking with their feet and clapping their hands. We were followed by crowds to our inn, who looked upon us as quite a spectacle! However we are encouraged to believe such a visit was wanted, and is likely to be of use, in drawing Christians together; as well as leading them from outward profession, to the real inward work of grace. We enjoyed peace after this awful Meeting, and parted in much love, for we have been treated with kindness by Roman Catholics and Protestants. The Irish are a fine powerful people; I have been thus particular in relating the history of to-day, because it has been so important a one to us.

The preceding letter, was almost the last which Elizabeth Fry addressed to her family, during her journey in Ireland; she was becoming worn and overfatigued, and every day added to the difficulty with which she accomplished the work allotted to it. Happily, they reached the hospitable dwelling of John Strangman, at Waterford, before her powers completely failed her. It was on Friday, the 12th of April, that she arrived there, and for more than a week she needed all the care, and close nursing which she experienced: then she gradually began to rally, and they pursued their onerous work. Her own journal written upon their return home, gives a sketch of the latter part of their journey, and more is not required, as the publication of her brother, Joseph John Gurney, gives so full an account of the state of prisons and public institutions in Ireland.

Plashet, Sixth Month, 2nd.—We continued our journey until the 11th of the Fifth Month; we went on much the same as I before described, with the exception of visiting some important towns, where no Friends resided; Londonderry, Sligo, and Galway, particularly the latter, where we held important Public Meetings, and saw many persons; we also visited some institutions—amidst serious difficulties, particularly from the Roman Catholics, but our way was marvellously made. The great numbers that followed us, almost wherever we went, was one of those things that I believe was too much for me, no one can tell but those who have been brought into similar circumstances, what it is to feel as I did at such times; often weak and fagged in body, exhausted in mind, having things of importance to direct my attention to, and not less than a multitude around me, each expecting a word or some mark of attention. For instance, on one occasion a General on one side, a Bishop on the other, and perhaps sixty other persons, all, expecting something from me. Visiting Prisons, Lunatic Asylums, and Infirmaries, each institution exciting feeling and requiring judgment. I endeavoured to seek for help from above, and for a quiet mind, and my desire was, that such times should not be lost upon those persons; they ended frequently in religious opportunities, and many came in consequence to our Public Meetings, however these things proved too much for me, and tired me more than any part of our service.

There were some, I believe, who feared my exaltation, and if they judged from outward appearances, I do not wonder at it; but a deep conviction of my own unworthiness and infirmity was so living with me, that these things appeared more likely to cast me into the dust, than raise me up on high. We went on thus, from place to place, until we reached Waterford; we had visited Limerick, Cork, and other places. I felt completely sinking, hardly able to hold up my head, and by degrees became seriously ill. Fever came on and ran very high, and I found myself in one of my distressing, faint states, indeed a few hours were most conflicting, I never remember to have known a more painful time; tried without, distressed within, feeling such fears lest it should try the faith of others my being thus stopped by illness, and lest my own faith should fail. My pain too in being from home was great. We were obliged to stop all the Meetings that we had appointed for days to come, however, much as I suffered for a short time, I had most sweet peace afterwards, my blessed Saviour arose with "healing in his wings" delivered me from my fears, poured balm into my wounds, and granted me such a sense of having obtained full reconciliation with my God, as I can hardly describe. All was peace; I no longer hankered after home, but was able to commit myself and those nearest, to this unslumbering, all merciful, and all powerful Shepherd. By degrees I was sufficiently raised up to attend Meetings, visit some prisons, and see many persons, and we concluded our general visit to Ireland, to my relief, peace, and satisfaction. The Yearly Meeting crowned all, as to our ministerial services in our own Society. We left Waterford on the 11th of Fifth Month, after visiting Wicklow, and Wexford, at that time remaining at Waterford a few hours only. We entered the steam-packet, slept on board, and left the harbour about three o'clock in the morning. I suffered a little, but not from sea sickness, and enjoyed part of the voyage which was most favourable, wind fair, sea calm, and many dear friends on board, who were most kind to us. We arrived at Milford about one o'clock, but I felt a want of due thankfulness, at being once again on this side the channel. We had an exceedingly kind reception from the Starbuck family, and a meeting with them, and other friends in the evening.

The next day, we went to Swansea, where we slept; we had a meeting there, and also at Neath.

On Fourth-day, I met my beloved husband at Maidenhead, with a good account from home; I arrived there in the evening, and although far from well, yet able to enjoy the sight of my beloved family and sweet home. I find things going on to my comfort and satisfaction, for this I desire to be humbly thankful.

The week following was much occupied by the interests of our own Yearly Meeting, and this week by a deeply anxious dispensation in the serious and sudden illness of my beloved brother Fowell Buxton, the shock ws great, and our feeling for him and his dearest wife deep indeed. We have now the inexpressible comfort of his being much better, and likely to recover; we rejoice not only for our own sakes, but for the world generally, that it has pleased a kind Providence to raise up again such a dearly-beloved and useful member of our family, and of the community at large.

Sixth Month.—In reviewing our late journey, I may say of my brother Joseph, that he is one who delights my heart,—I think such true Christian conduct is not often manifested; he so remarkably combines the gifts and graces of the Spirit, his constant kindness and humility were striking and exemplary. We are certainly united in a remarkable manner, not only by close natural bonds but in spiritual unity.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LIBRARY
Los Angeles
This book is DUE on the last date stamped below.

APR 2 1959
DEC 8 1963
LD-URL FEB 9 1968
RENEWAL FEB 27 1968
FEB 28 1968
LD-URL MAR 1 1968
REC'D LD-URL
JUN 1 1976
JUL 17 1976
REC'D URL-LD FEB 25 1969
JUN 6 1969
REC'D LD-URL
MAY 10 1976
RENEWAL LD URL MAY 16 1976

Form L9–50m-7,'54 (5990) 444

UC SOUTHERN REGIONAL LIBRARY FACILITY

AA 000 912 987 5